

"As a reflection on both family and country, *Fantastic Four: Life Story* tells a tale that emphasizes heroic humanity above superpowers"

— ComicBook.com

# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story*



RUSSELL  
IZAAKSE  
WOODARD

**MARVEL**





# FANTASTIC FOUR

LIFE STORY





# FANTASTIC FOUR LIFE STORY

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# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story* 1 The '60s



20 71



**APRIL 1961.**

"AT HARVARD, THEY  
USED TO TELL US THAT  
EVERY **GOOD IDEA**  
WAS THE PRODUCT OF  
INSPIRATION...

"...AND EVERY **BAD  
IDEA** THE PRODUCT  
OF DESPERATION."

OR WAS IT THE NAVY THAT  
SAID THAT? I FORGET.  
THE POINT IS THIS,  
DR. RICHARDS...

...WE'RE  
**DÉSÉPÉRÉ.**

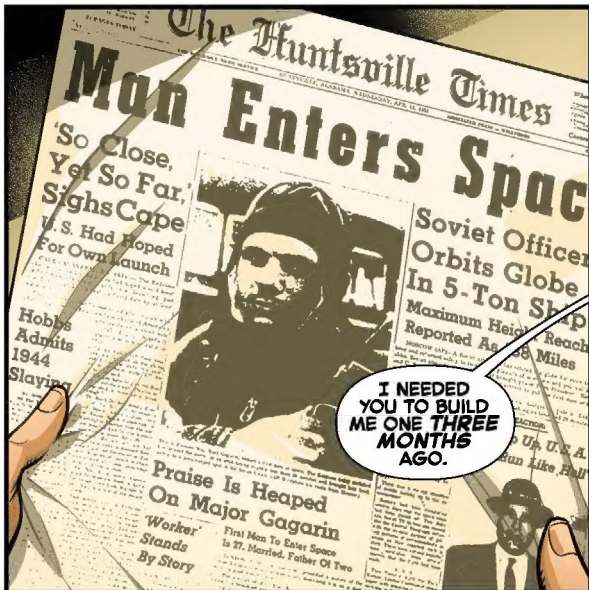
"WE'VE ALREADY TRIED  
TO PUT A MAN IN SPACE  
**THREE TIMES.**

"THREE  
**LAUNCHES.**

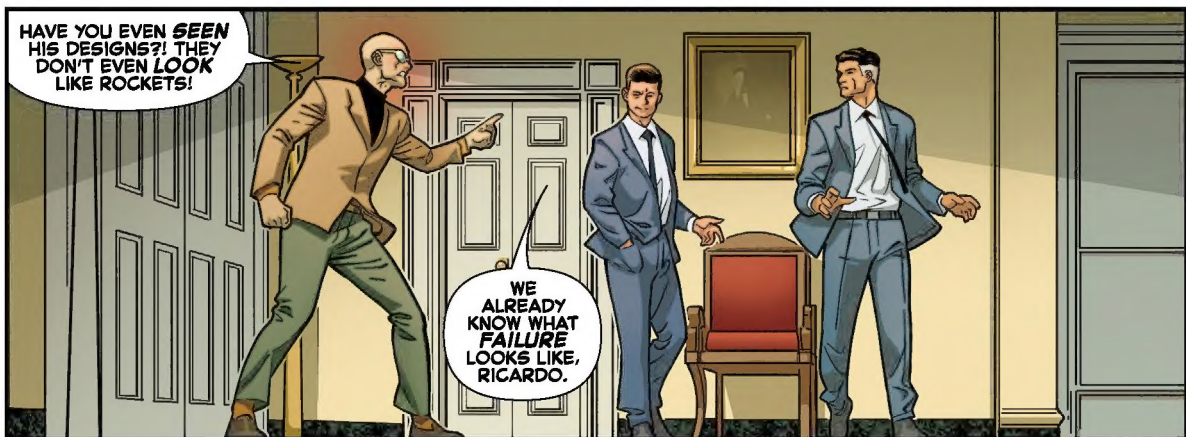
"AND THREE  
**FAILURES."**

ABORT!  
ABORT  
MISSION!

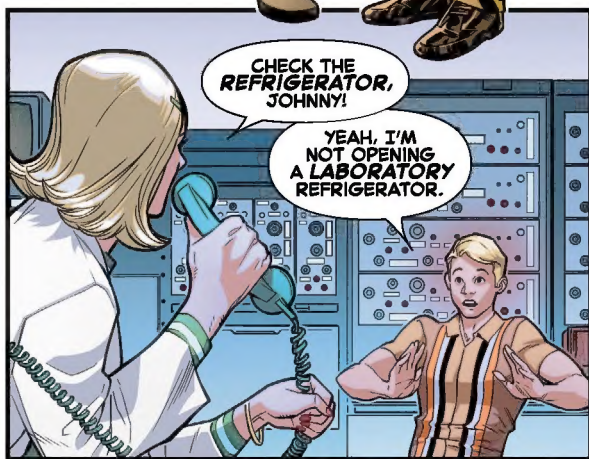




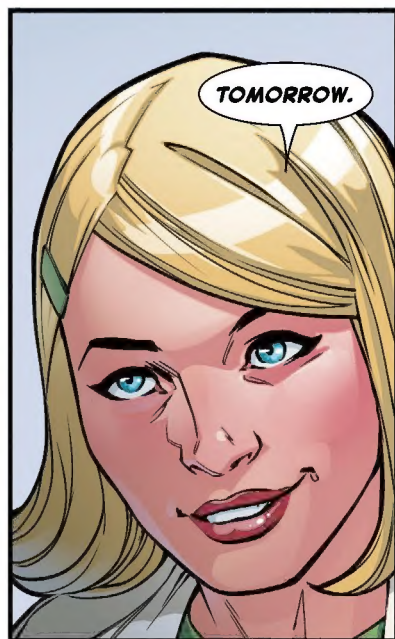
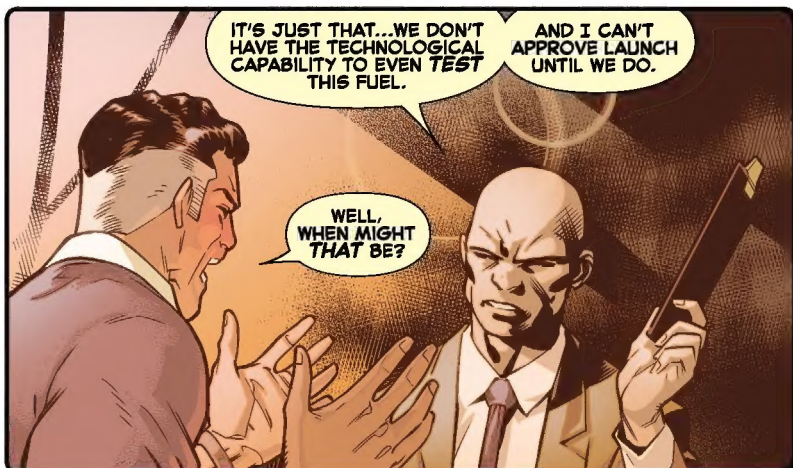




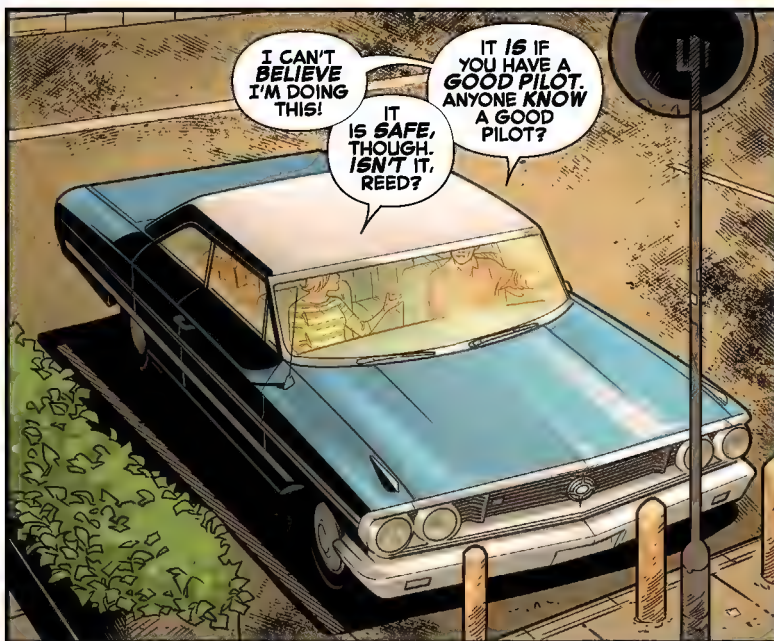
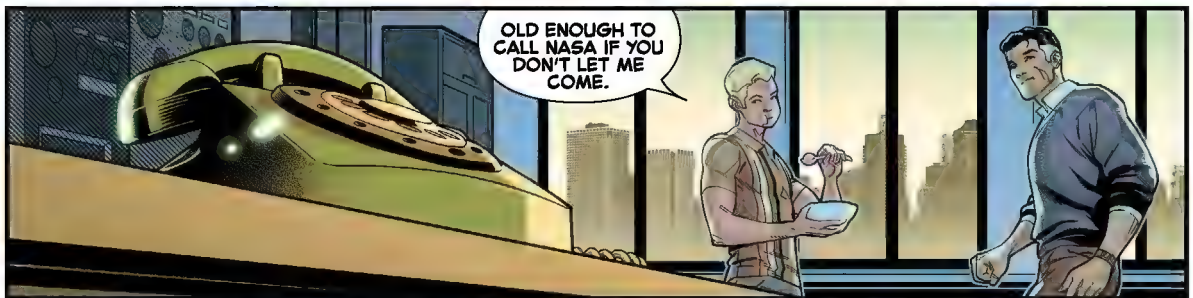
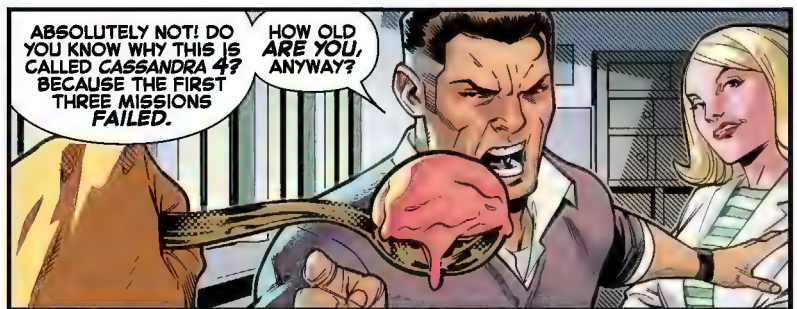
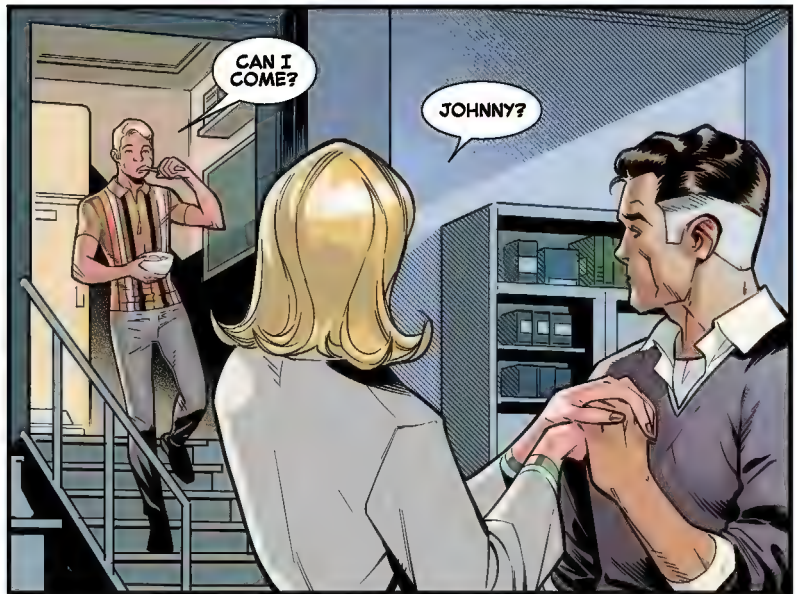




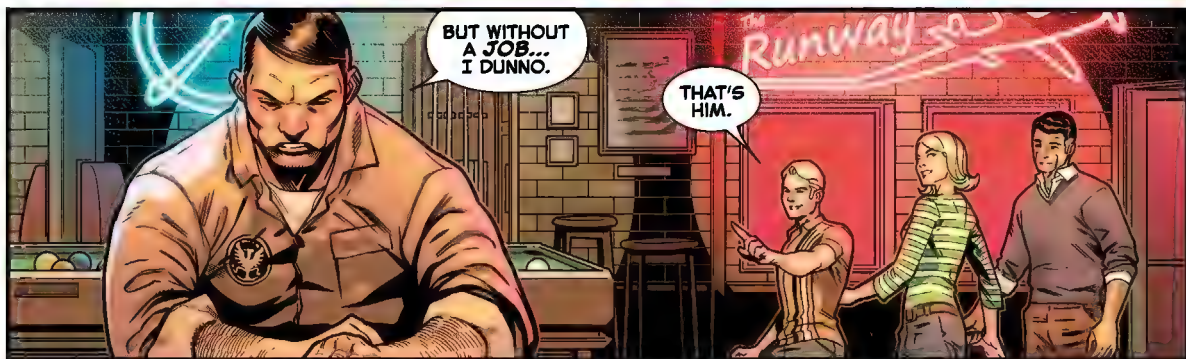




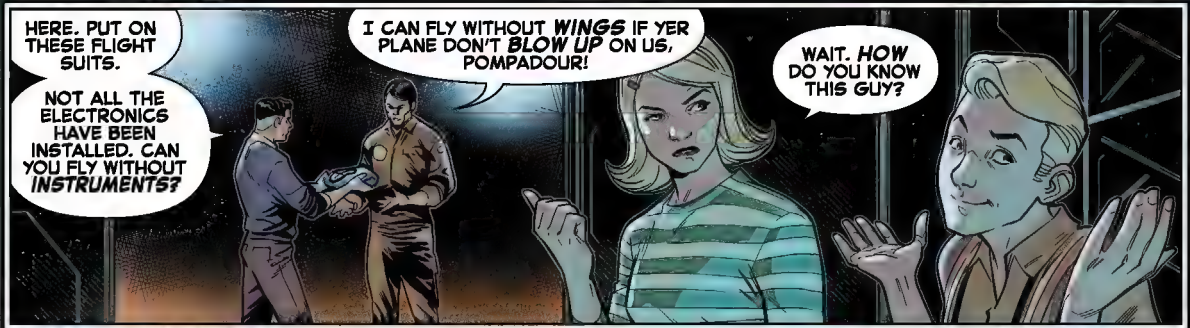
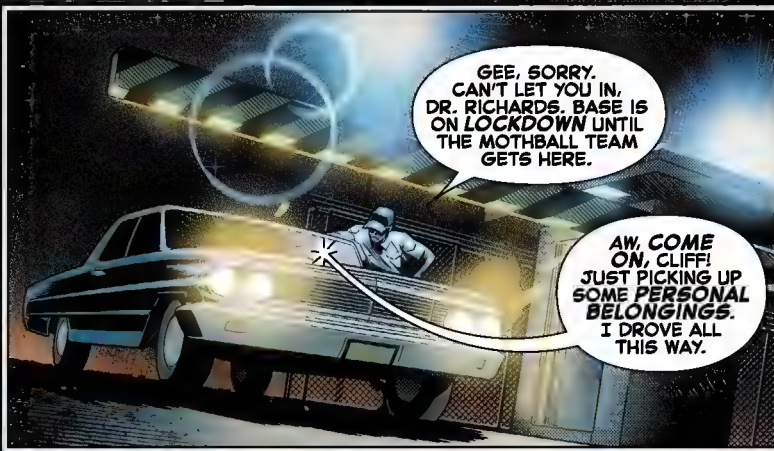




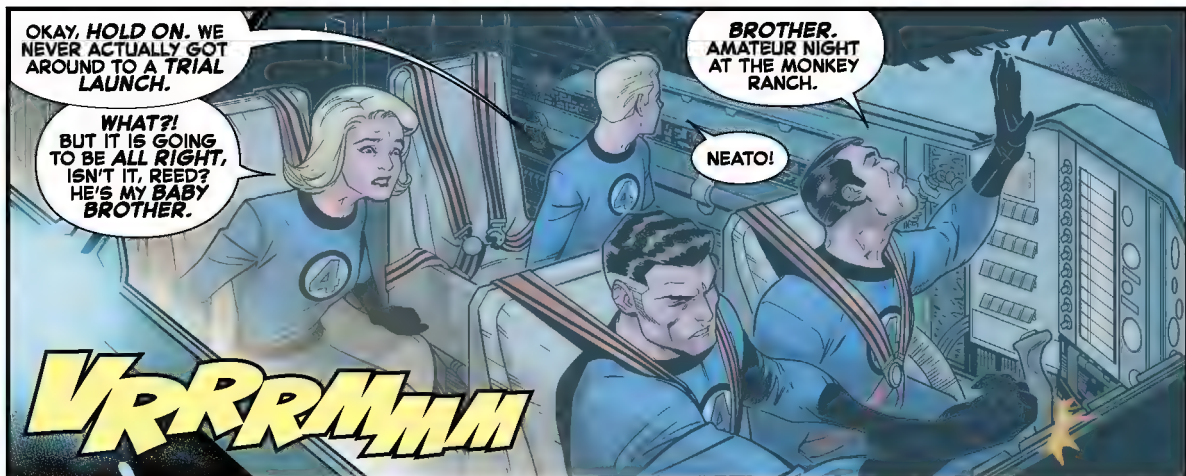














EVERY **GOOD** IDEA  
IS THE PRODUCT OF  
**INSPIRATION.**

DIDN'T THINK  
THE OLD **CIGAR**  
BOX WOULD MAKE  
IT. **CONGRATS,**  
DOC!

WE DID IT!  
WE'RE THE **FIRST**  
**AMERICANS**  
IN SPACE!

AND ONLY  
**THIRD** OVERALL...  
AFTER A **COMMIE**  
AND A **DOG.**

PERSONALLY,  
I DON'T SEE  
HOW I CAN GO  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
AFTER THIS.

HMM. THE  
ANTIMATTER  
INDEX IS  
FLUCTUATING.

AND EVERY **BAD**  
IDEA THE PRODUCT  
OF **DESPERATION.**

REED?

SOMETHING'S  
WRONG. THE  
HULL'S MOLECULAR  
INTEGRITY--

WE HAD RUN  
THOUSANDS OF  
SIMULATIONS.  
THIS HAD NEVER  
HAPPENED IN THE  
LABORATORY.

OH NO...

OF COURSE, YOU  
CAN'T SIMULATE  
**COSMIC RAYS** IN  
THE LABORATORY.

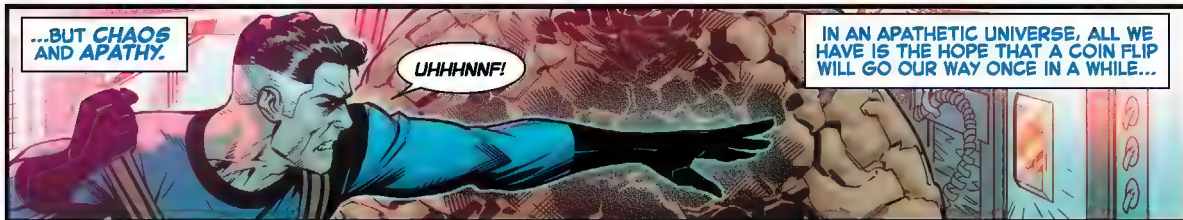
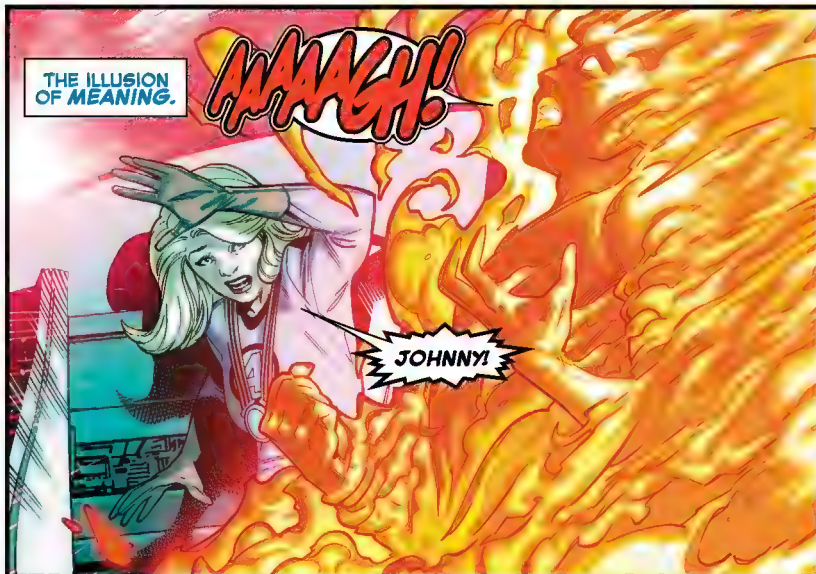
IT CAN'T  
BE. IT  
CAN'T--

WHEN THE  
**COSMIC RAYS**  
INTERACTED WITH  
THE **ANTIMATTER**  
FUEL....

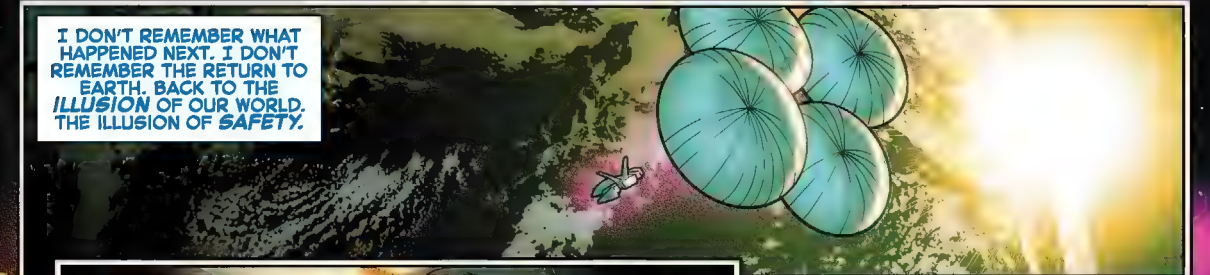
...SOMETHING HAPPENED.  
SOMETHING I SHOULD  
HAVE FORESEEN...

...AND YET WOULD  
**NEVER** HAVE  
DREAMED OF IN A  
MILLION YEARS.









I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT  
HAPPENED NEXT. I DON'T  
REMEMBER THE RETURN TO  
EARTH. BACK TO THE  
*ILLUSION* OF OUR WORLD.  
THE ILLUSION OF *SAFETY*.



BUT I DO REMEMBER  
THAT *JUST* BEFORE  
BLACKING OUT...

DR. RICHARDS?  
ARE YOU ALL  
RIGHT, SIR?



...I *SAW* IT.  
JUST FOR A  
*MOMENT*, BUT  
I *SAW* IT.

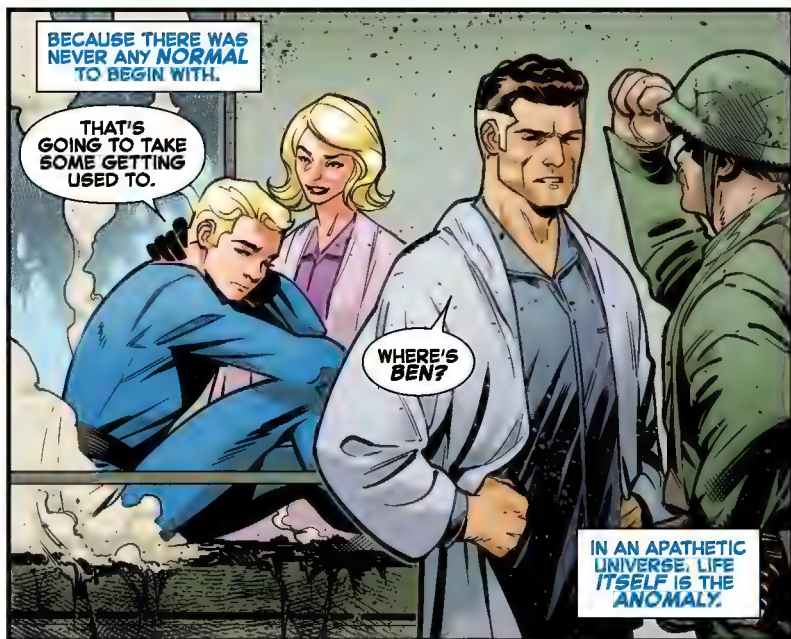
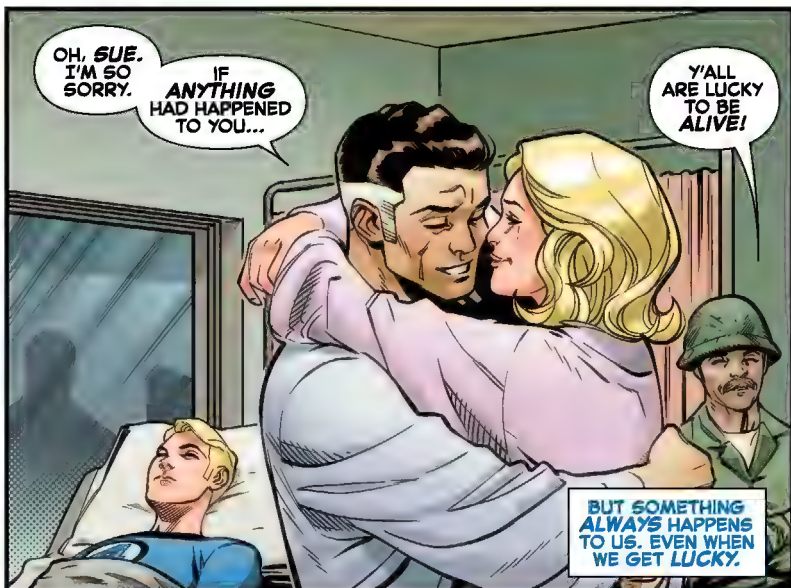


THE *DEATH*  
OF OUR  
ILLUSION.

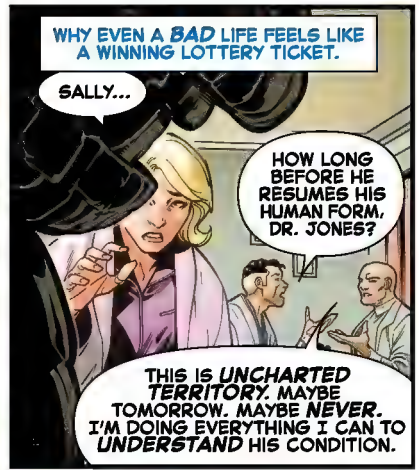
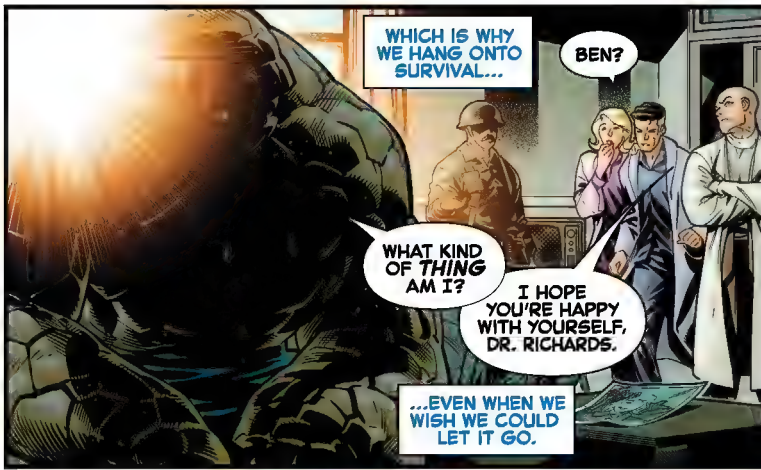
THE *DEATH*  
OF OUR  
WORLD.

THE *DEATH* OF  
EVERYTHING.

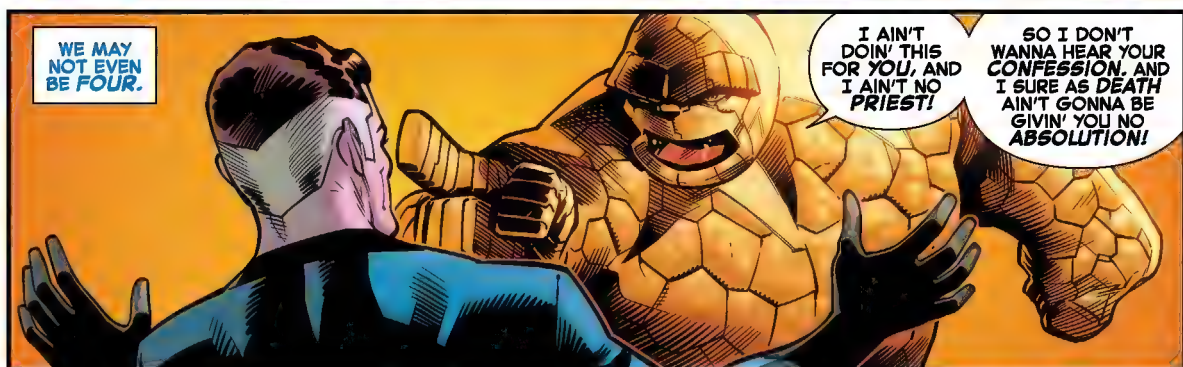














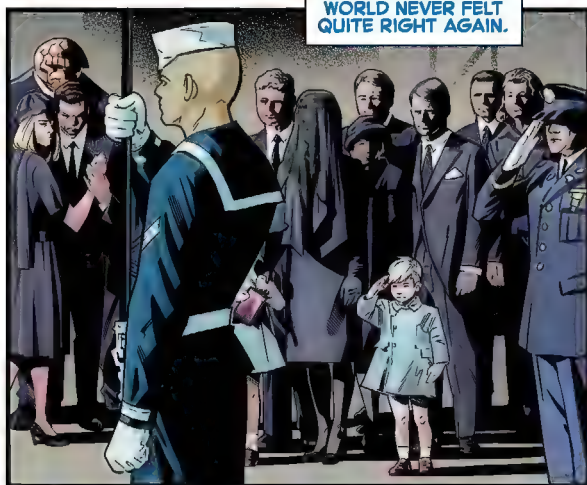






LIFE WENT ON,  
AS IT USUALLY  
DOES.

BUT SOMEHOW, THE  
WORLD NEVER FELT  
QUITE RIGHT AGAIN.



WE WERE OVERNIGHT  
SENSATIONS IN AN  
AGE WHEN THE SUN  
NEVER SET.

FOLKS,  
TONIGHT MARKS  
THE DEBUT ON  
THIS SHOW OF NOT  
ONE, BUT TWO  
QUARTETS!

HEY! IF ANY  
OF YOUSE WANNA HAIRCUT,  
I KNOW A GUY IN BROOKLYN.



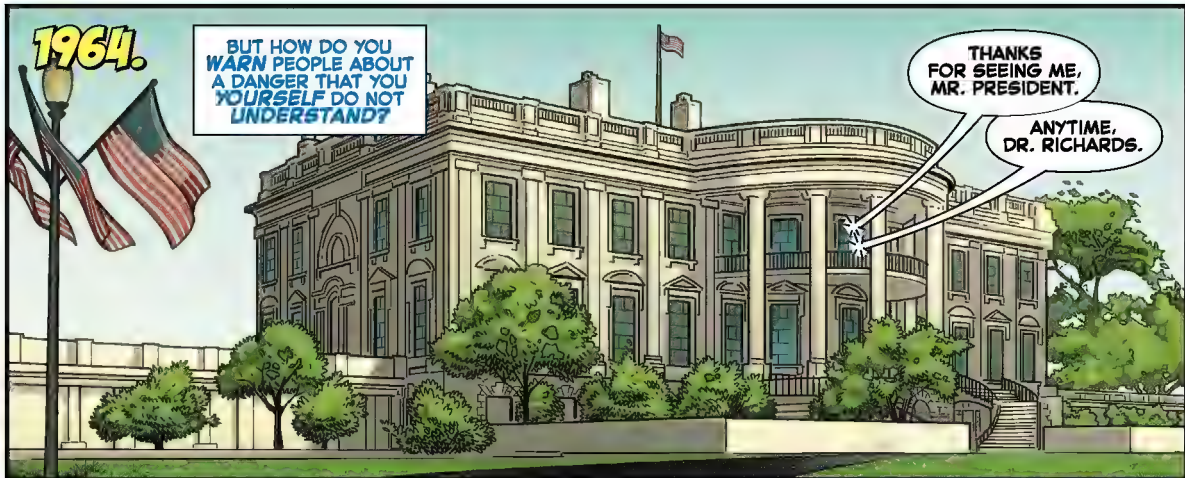
THE WORLD  
NEEDED SAVING  
IN WAYS EVEN  
WE COULDN'T  
PROVIDE.



AND YET MY THOUGHTS  
KEPT TURNING FROM  
THIS WORLD--FROM  
THE NOW--TO THOSE FEW  
BRIEF SECONDS IN 1961.

WHEN I BEHELD A  
BRIEF GLIMPSE OF  
THE END. WHEN I  
SAW IT, WHATEVER  
IT WAS.





**1964.**

BUT HOW DO YOU  
WARN PEOPLE ABOUT  
A DANGER THAT YOU  
YOURSELF DO NOT  
UNDERSTAND?

THANKS  
FOR SEEING ME,  
MR. PRESIDENT.

ANYTIME,  
DR. RICHARDS.



I BELIEVE YOU  
KNOW DR. RICARDO  
JONES?

OF COURSE.

I ASKED  
HIM TO BE HERE,  
AS HE IS OUR  
TOP ASTRO-  
BIOLOGIST.

NOW, WHAT'S  
THIS THING  
YOU KEEP WRITIN'  
ME BOUT?

I DON'T  
KNOW.

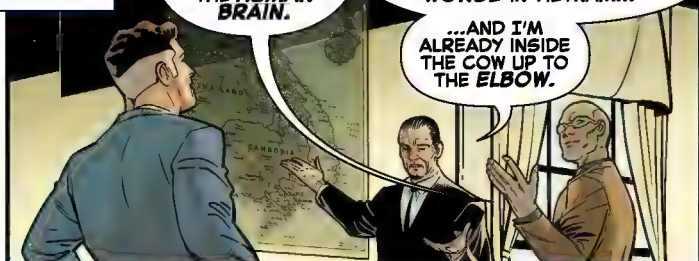
I JUST... I KNOW  
IT'S MALEVOLENT.  
AND IF IT COMES  
HERE, AND WE'RE  
NOT READY?

THIS WORLD  
IS CONSUMED  
WITH ITS OWN  
CONFLICTS.

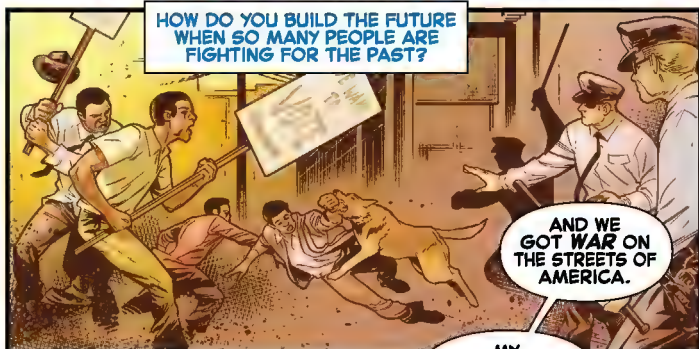
IT COULD BE  
**PSYCHOSIS**, SIR.  
THE EFFECT OF  
COSMIC RAYS ON  
THE HUMAN  
BRAIN.

I DUNNO, YOU COULD BE **RIGHT**,  
DR. RICHARDS. BUT AFTER THE  
**GULF OF TONKIN**, THINGS ARE  
ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT  
WORSE IN VIETNAM...

...AND I'M  
ALREADY INSIDE  
THE COW UP TO  
THE ELBOW.

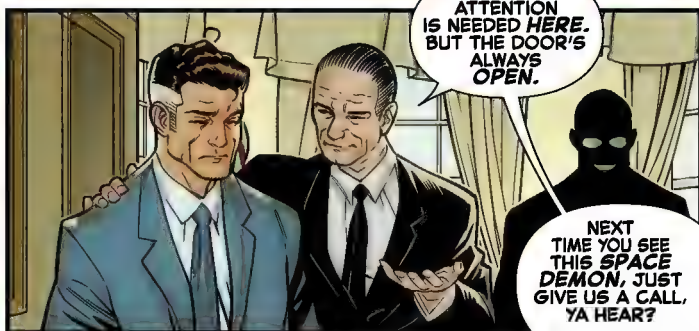


HOW DO YOU BUILD THE FUTURE  
WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE ARE  
FIGHTING FOR THE PAST?



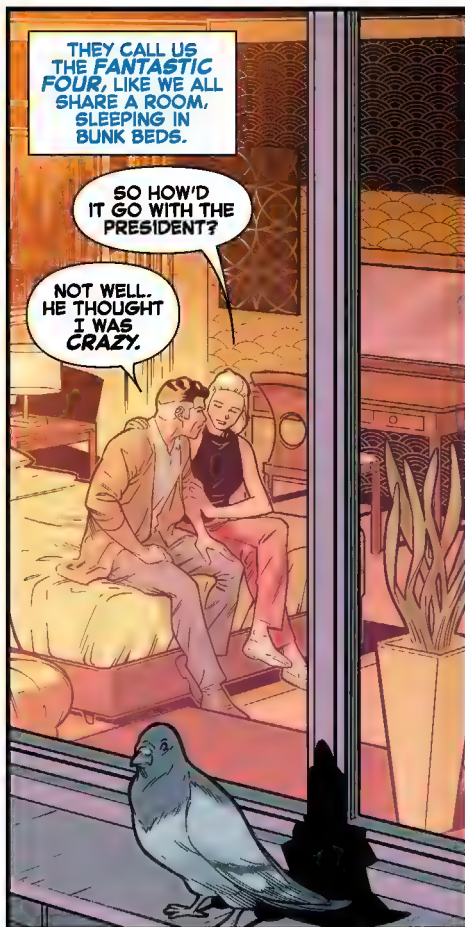
AND WE  
GOT WAR ON  
THE STREETS OF  
AMERICA.

MY  
ATTENTION  
IS NEEDED **HERE**.  
BUT THE DOOR'S  
ALWAYS  
OPEN.



NEXT  
TIME YOU SEE  
THIS **SPACE**  
**DEMON**, JUST  
GIVE US A CALL,  
YA HEAR?

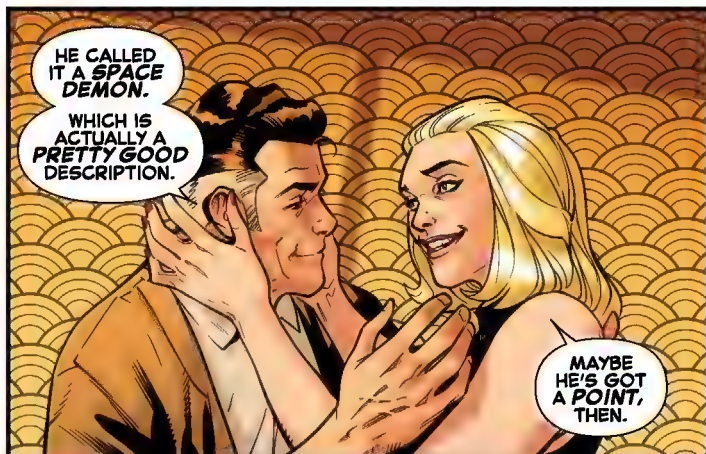




THEY CALL US THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**, LIKE WE ALL SHARE A ROOM, SLEEPING IN BUNK BEDS.

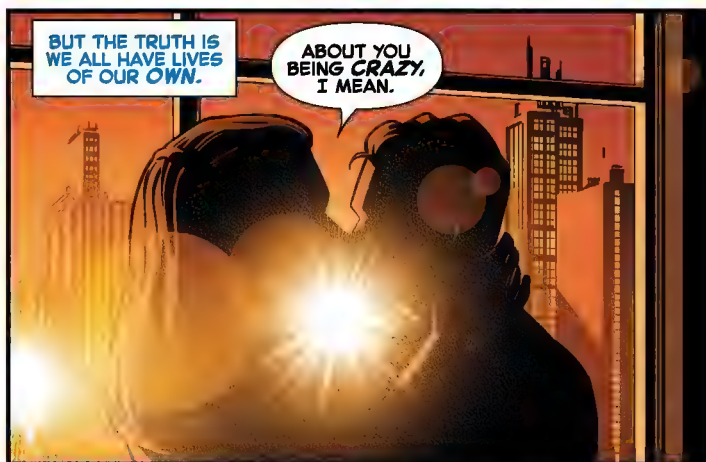
SO HOW'D IT GO WITH THE PRESIDENT?

NOT WELL. HE THOUGHT I WAS **CRAZY**.



HE CALLED IT A **SPACE DEMON**. WHICH IS ACTUALLY A **PRETTY GOOD** DESCRIPTION.

MAYBE HE'S GOT A **POINT**, THEN.

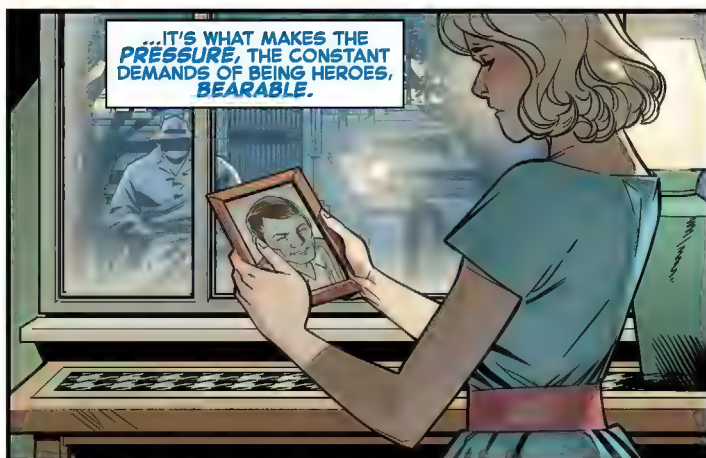


BUT THE TRUTH IS WE ALL HAVE LIVES OF OUR OWN.

ABOUT YOU BEING **CRAZY**, I MEAN.



AND SHARING IT WITH SOMEONE WHO NOT ONLY **LOVES** YOU, BUT ALSO **UNDERSTANDS...**



...IT'S WHAT MAKES THE **PRESSURE**, THE CONSTANT DEMANDS OF BEING **HEROES**, **BEARABLE**.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO **WITHOUT IT**.



**1967.**

WELCOME! TONIGHT,  
OUR GUESTS ARE  
NOT ONE, BUT TWO  
WORLD-RENOUNDED  
SCIENTISTS!

WAS THIS  
A BOOKING  
ERROR?

NO? IT WAS  
INTENTIONAL?  
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL  
TALK AFTER THE  
SHOW.

WELL, FOR MOST  
OF YOU WATCHING  
AT HOME...  
**GOOD NIGHT!**

**HA! HA!  
HA!**

FOR EVERYONE  
ELSE, I WOULD LIKE TO  
INTRODUCE DR. RICARDO  
JONES, NASA'S  
CHIEF ASTRO-  
BIOLOGIST...

...AND REED RICHARDS,  
MORE POPULARLY  
KNOWN AS MR.  
FANTASTIC!

**CLAP CLAP  
CLAP CLAP**

SO...DR. JONES...  
BRING ANY ALIENS  
WITH YOU?

NO, I'M  
AFRAID  
NOT.

WELL, THAT'S TOO  
BAD. JOHNNY CARSON  
ALWAYS HAS A WILD  
ANIMAL SEGMENT.  
SAVES MONEY ON  
WRITERS.

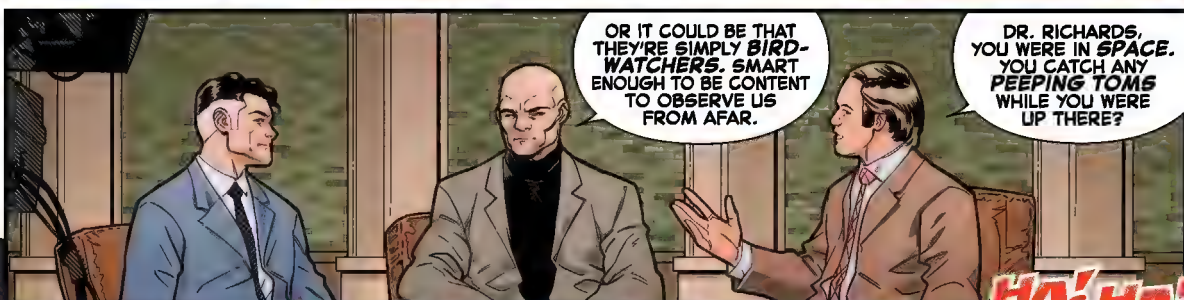
YEARS AGO, WHEN  
NASA FIRST STARTED,  
I WAS HAVING LUNCH  
WITH A BUNCH OF  
OTHER SCIENTISTS,  
AND WE WERE  
TALKING ABOUT  
ALIENS.

AND WE ALL  
AGREED. OUR  
GALAXY WAS  
UNDOUBTEDLY TEEMING  
WITH **MILLIONS**  
OF ALIEN  
CIVILIZATIONS.

EXCEPT FOR  
ENRICO FERMI,  
WHO STOOD UP AND  
SHOUTED, "WELL,  
THEN...WHERE IS  
EVERYBODY?!"

THAT  
WAS MY NEXT  
QUESTION.







AS GOD IS MY WITNESS, I WISH I HAD JUST FORGOTTEN ABOUT WHAT WAS OUT THERE WAITING FOR US. BUT I COULDN'T LET IT GO. FOR SOME REASON, I *COULDN'T*. SO I BUILT A SUBSPACE CHAMBER IN THE HOPES OF RE-CREATING THE CONDITIONS OF OUR FIRST *SPACE FLIGHT*. THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH I FIRST SAW...IT.

**WHIRRRRRRR**

POWERING UP. ALL SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONAL.

DID YOU GET CITY APPROVAL FOR OUR EXTRA POWER, JOHNNY?

I...  
ARRANGED IT.



LOOK, MOMMY!  
A POWER OUTAGE!



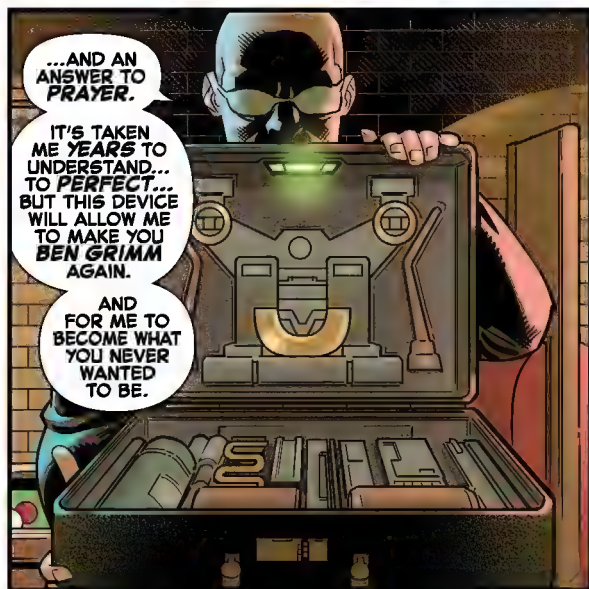
REED, IT'S NOT TOO LATE... TO STOP.

I'M AFRAID IT IS. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'VE GOT TO KNOW.

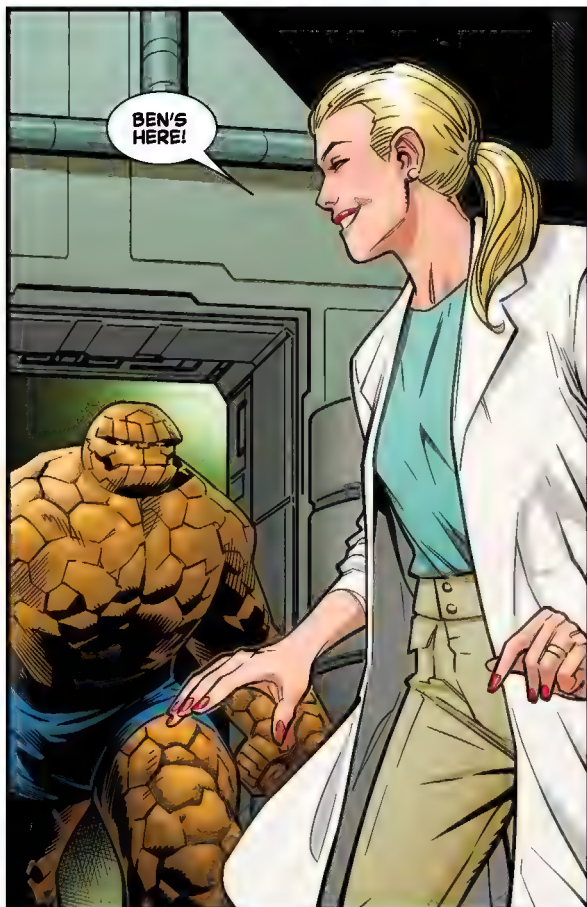


WHERE'S BEN? IT'S GO TIME IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!







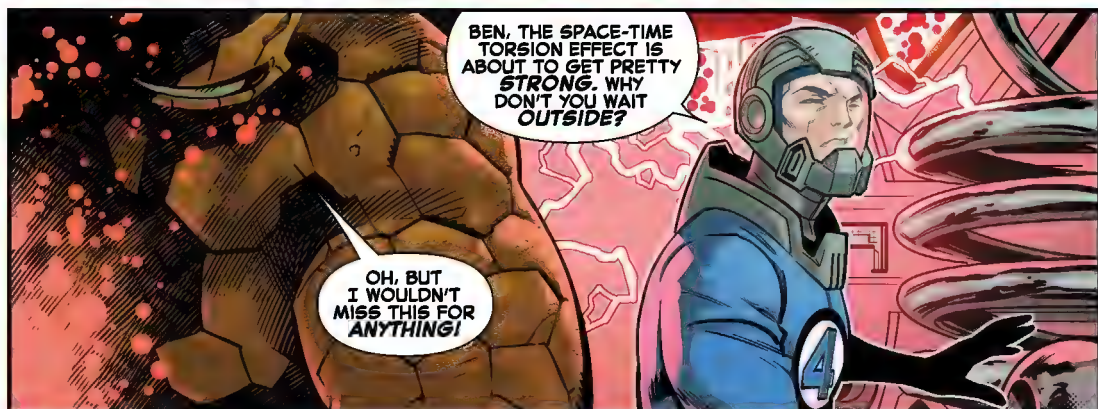






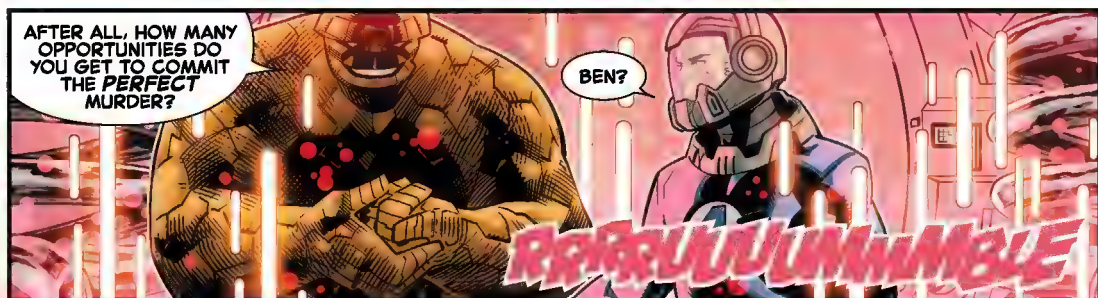
ACTIVATING  
SUBSPACE  
CHAMBER...  
NOW.

VWHRPP



BEN, THE SPACE-TIME  
TORSION EFFECT IS  
ABOUT TO GET PRETTY  
**STRONG**. WHY  
DON'T YOU WAIT  
OUTSIDE?

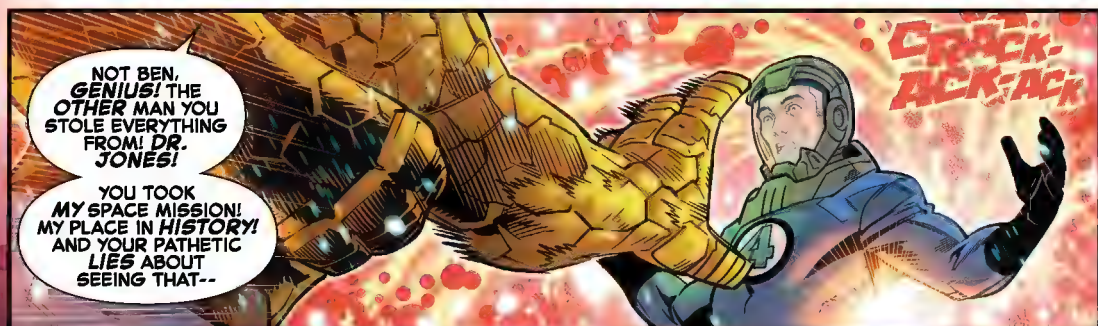
OH, BUT  
I WOULDN'T  
MISS THIS FOR  
ANYTHING!



AFTER ALL, HOW MANY  
OPPORTUNITIES DO  
YOU GET TO COMMIT  
THE **PERFECT**  
MURDER?

BEN?

RRUUUUNNNN



NOT BEN,  
**GENIUS!** THE  
OTHER MAN YOU  
STOLE EVERYTHING  
FROM! **DR.  
JONES!**

YOU TOOK  
MY SPACE MISSION!  
MY PLACE IN **HISTORY!**  
AND YOUR PATHETIC  
**LIES** ABOUT  
SEEING THAT--

CRACK-  
ACK-ACK



--THAT...





OH NO...



WHAT  
ARE  
YOU?



YOU WERE  
RIGHT. THIS  
WHOLE TIME...  
YOU WERE  
RIGHT.



THEY CALL  
ME **GALACTUS**.  
DESTROYER OF  
WORLDS.

I SEE  
YOU. THE  
**TERROR** IN  
YOUR SOUL.





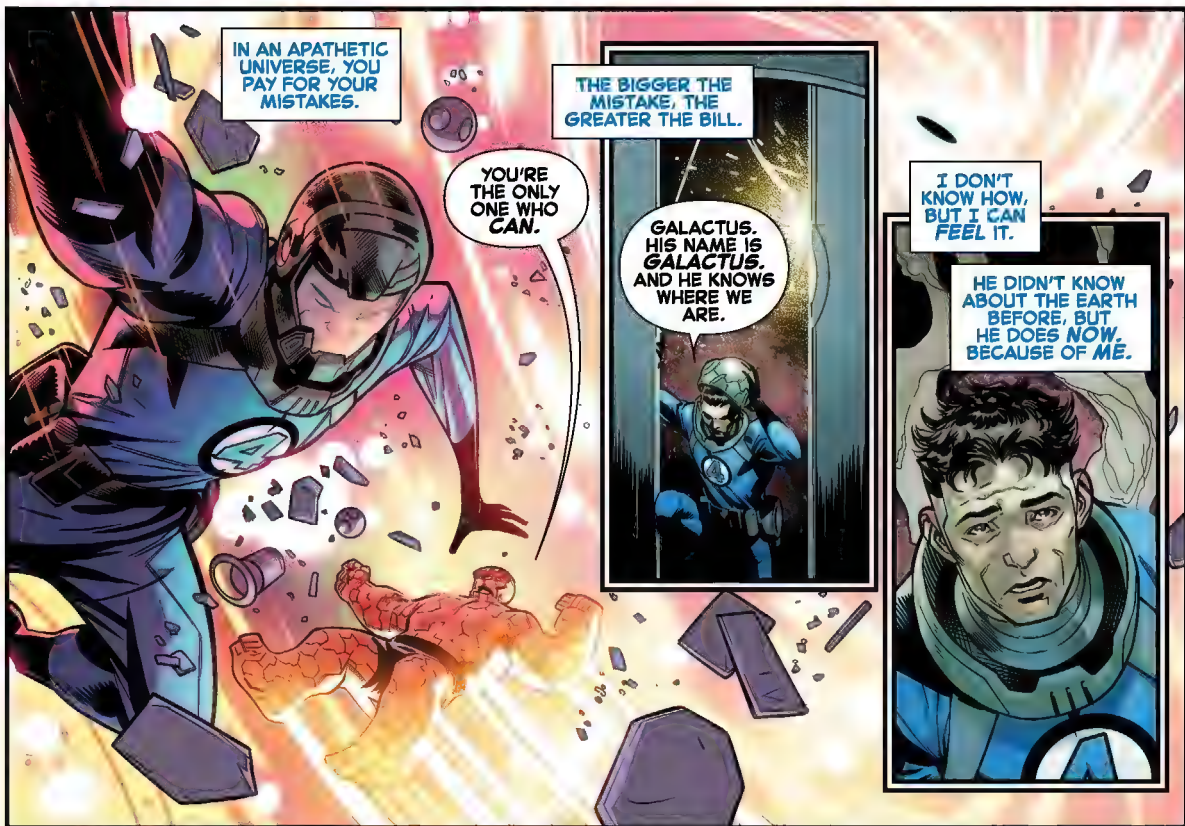
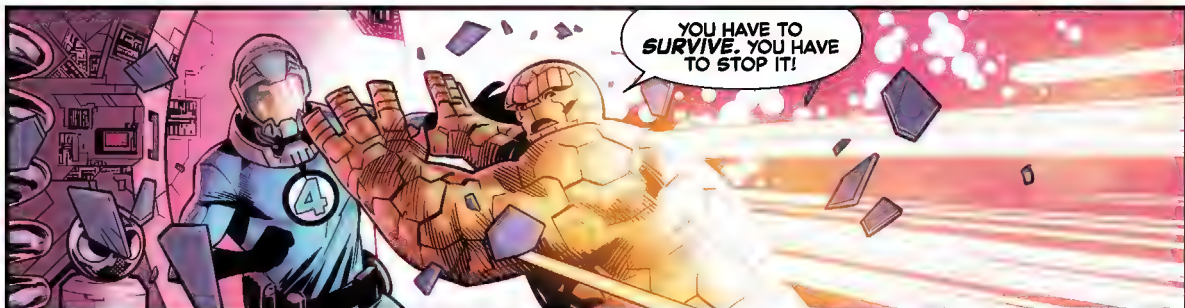
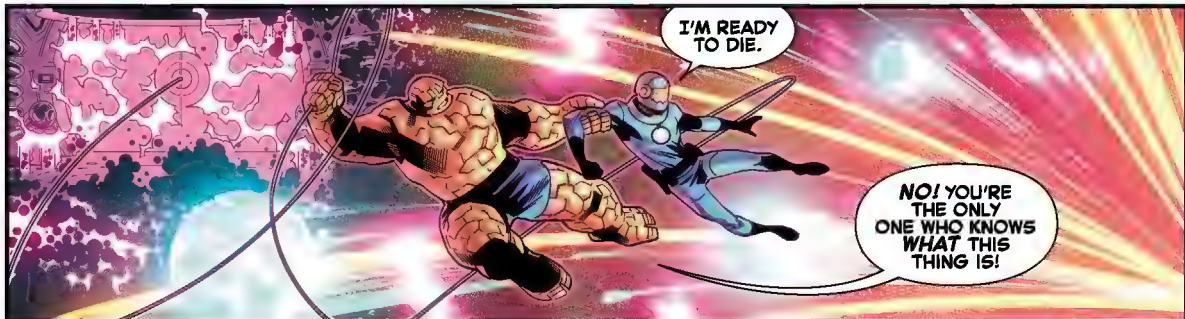
AND I AM  
COMING  
FOR IT!

I AM  
COMING  
FOR YOU  
ALL.

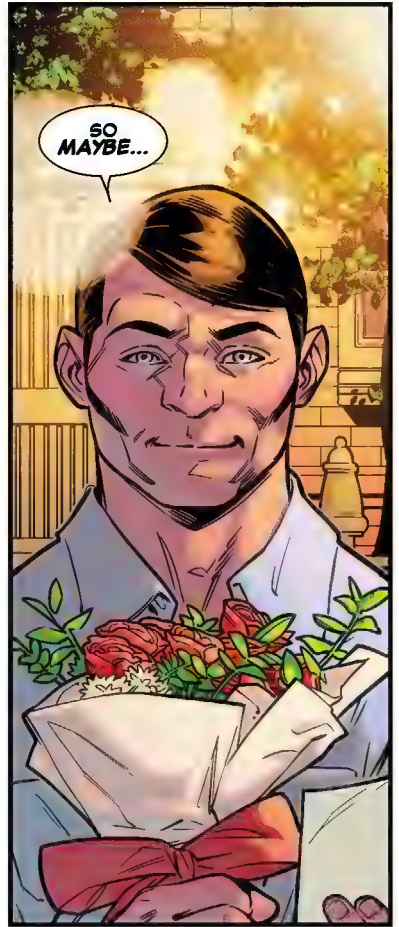
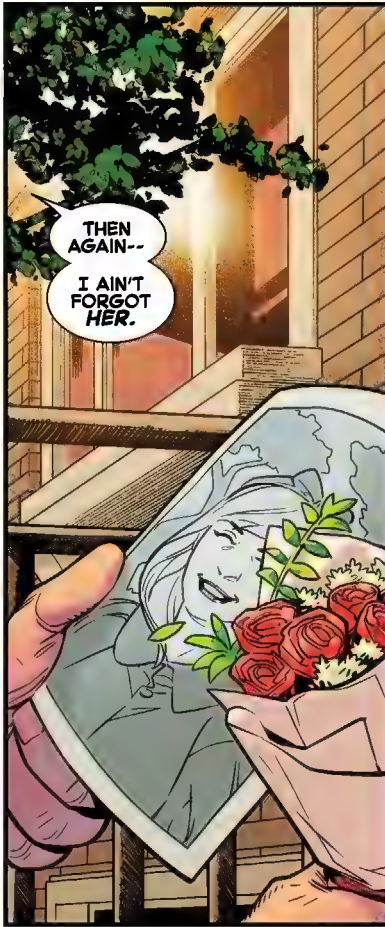
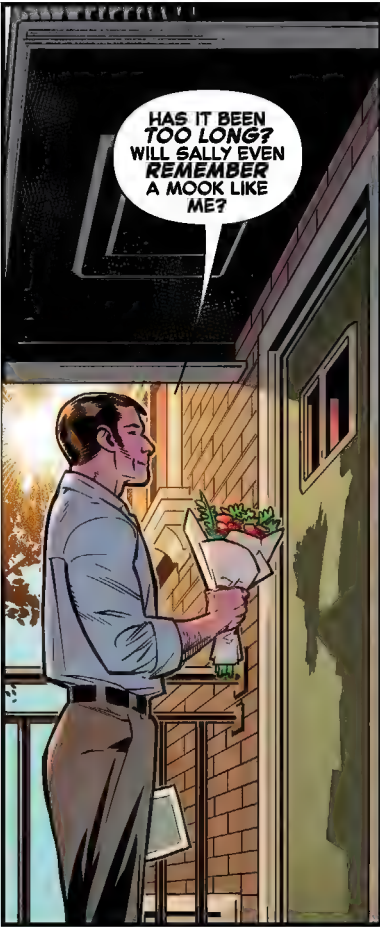


I...I WAS  
WRONG ABOUT  
EVERYTHING.

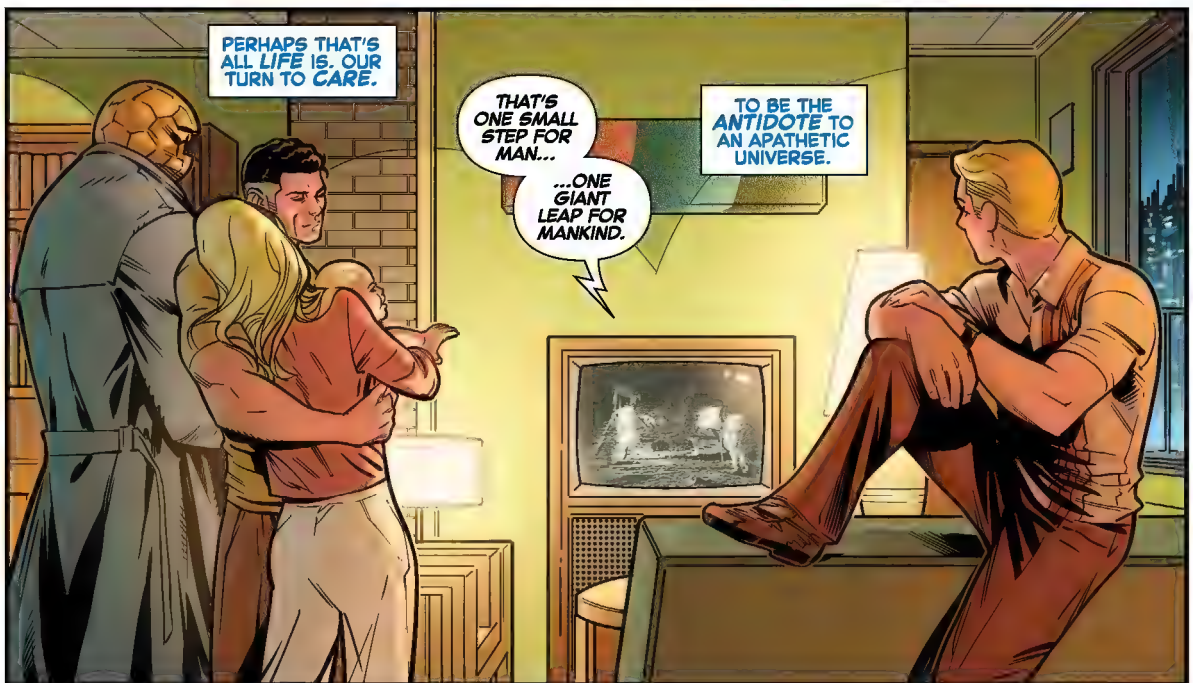
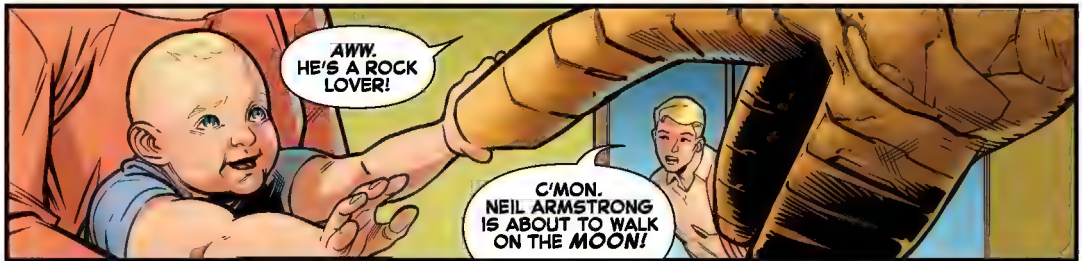
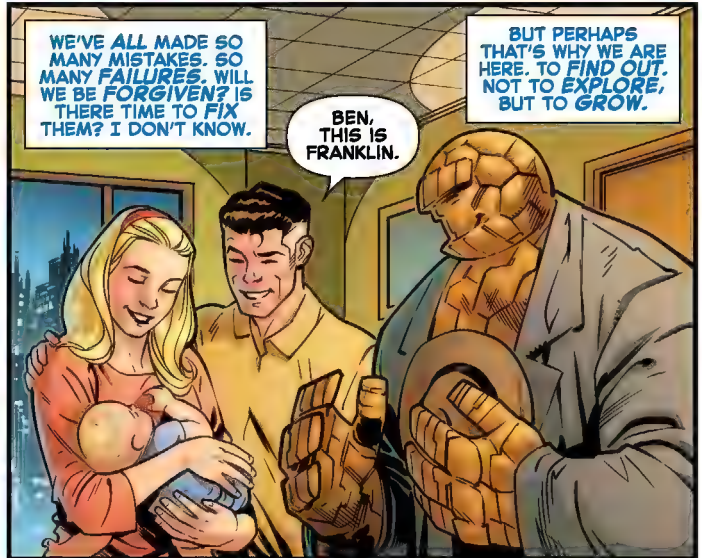
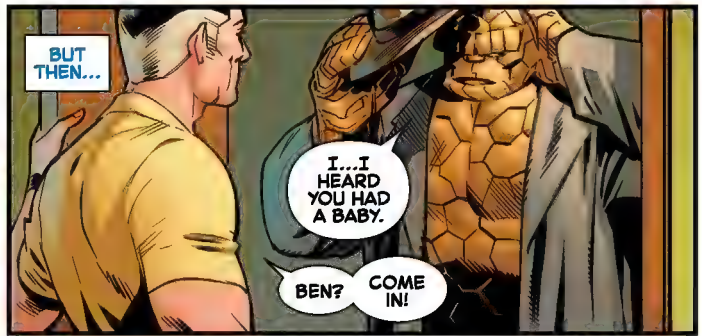
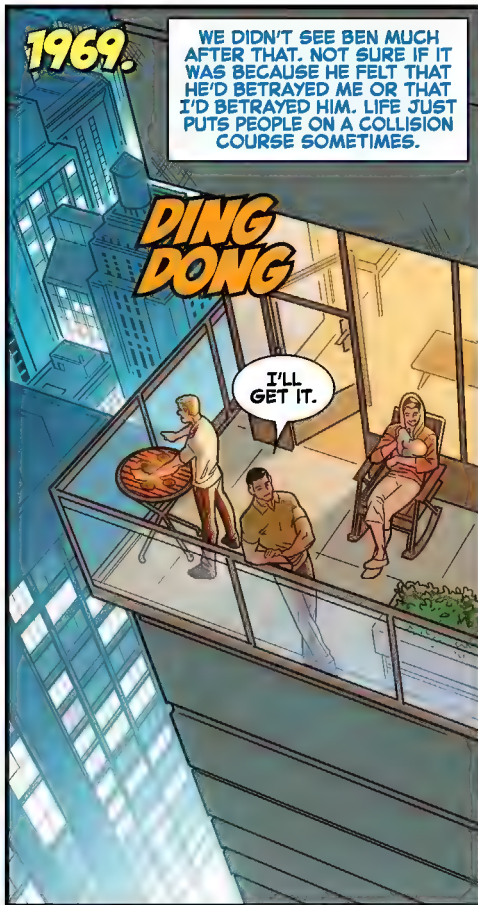




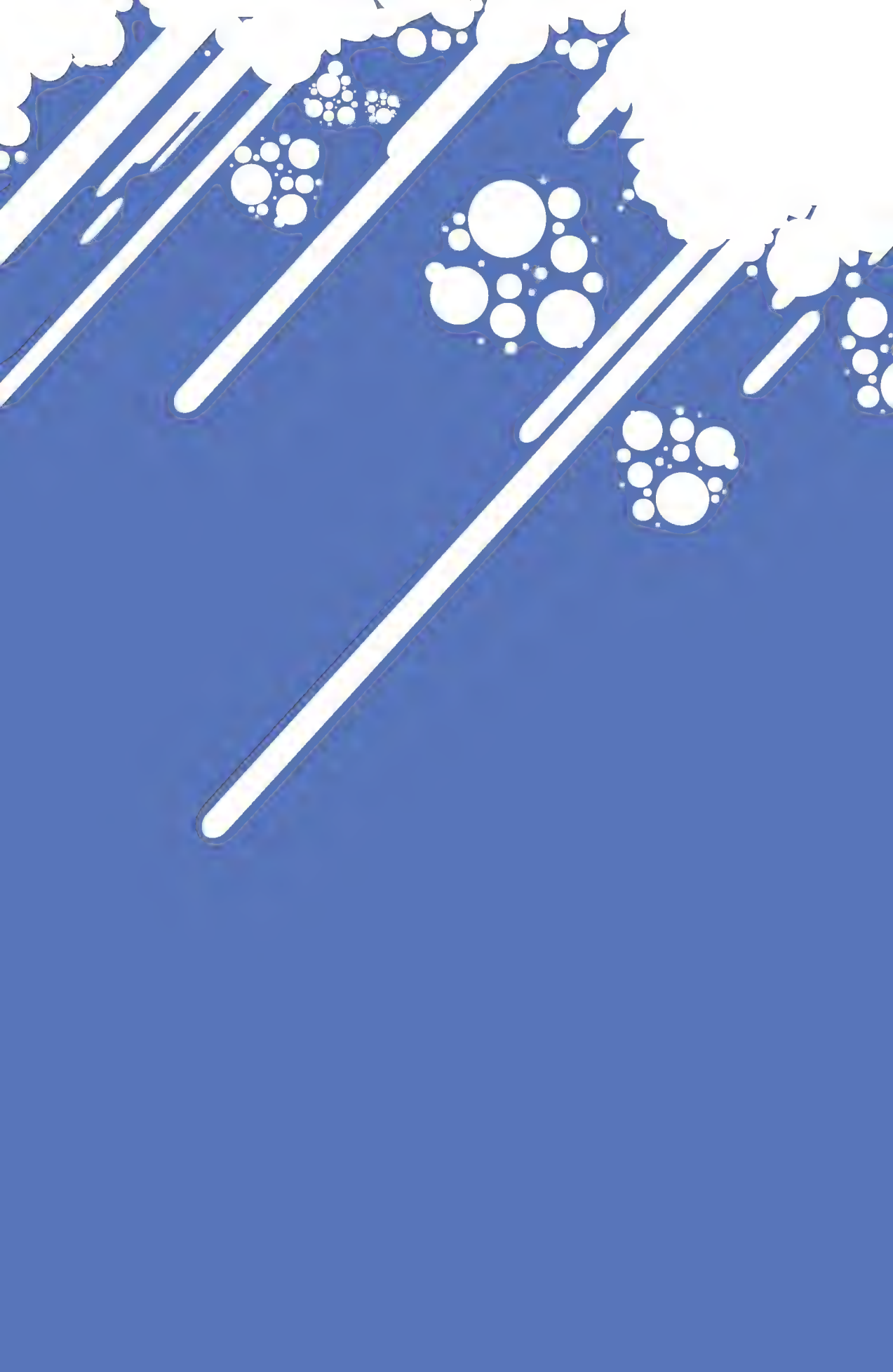












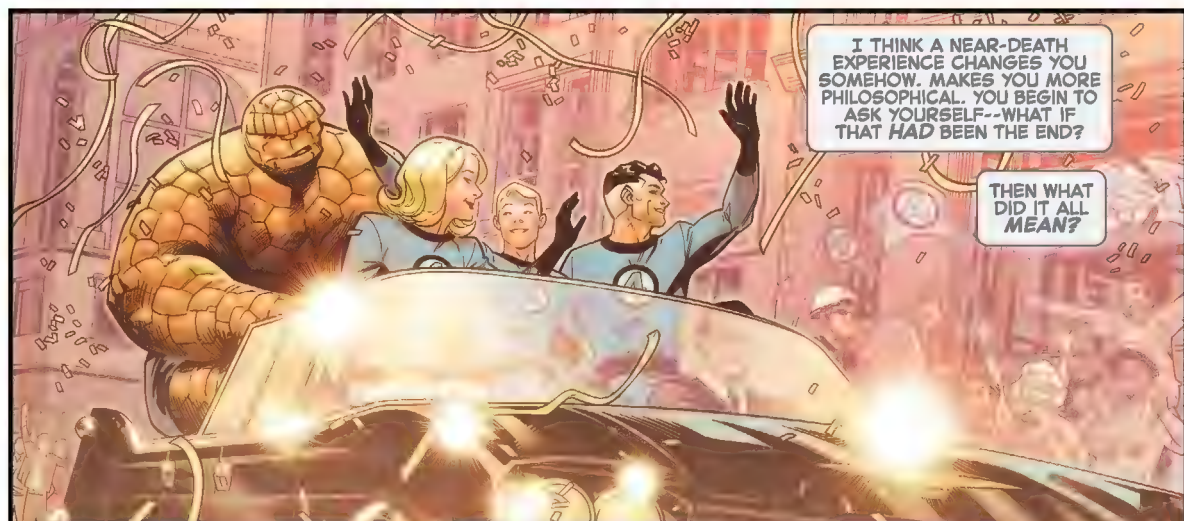


# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story 2*  
The '70s

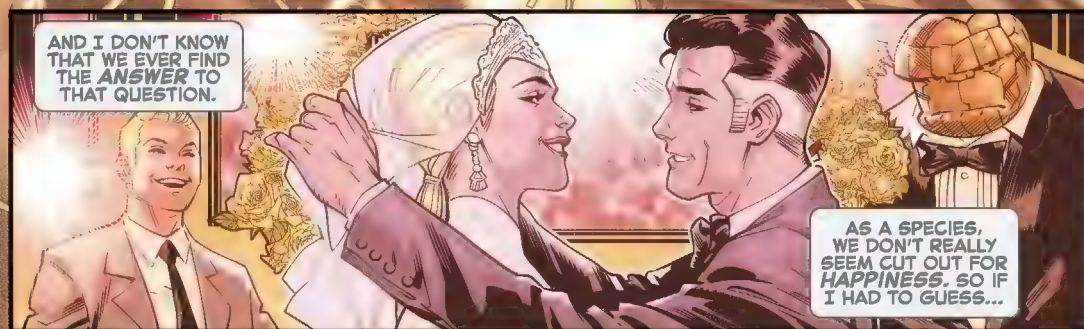






I THINK A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE CHANGES YOU SOMEHOW. MAKES YOU MORE PHILOSOPHICAL. YOU BEGIN TO ASK YOURSELF--WHAT IF THAT HAD BEEN THE END?

THEN WHAT DID IT ALL MEAN?



AND I DON'T KNOW THAT WE EVER FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

AS A SPECIES, WE DON'T REALLY SEEM CUT OUT FOR HAPPINESS. SO IF I HAD TO GUESS...

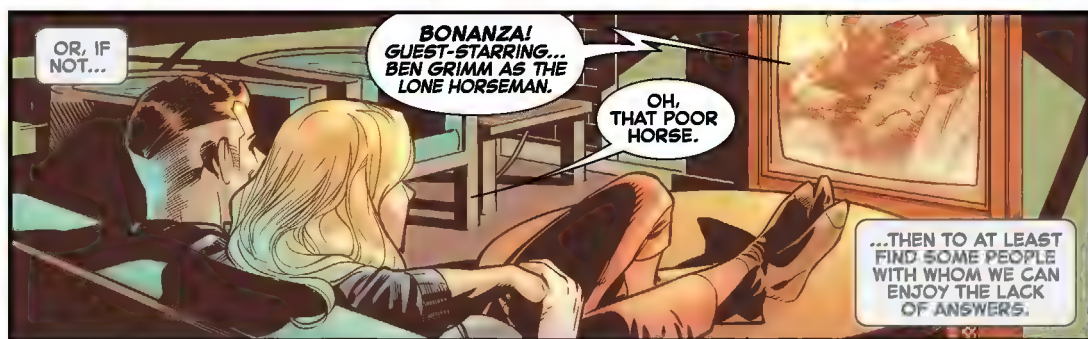


...I'D SAY THAT WE WERE PUT ON EARTH TO GROW.



TO DISCOVER OURSELVES.

TO FIND THE LIVES THAT FIT US.



OR, IF NOT...

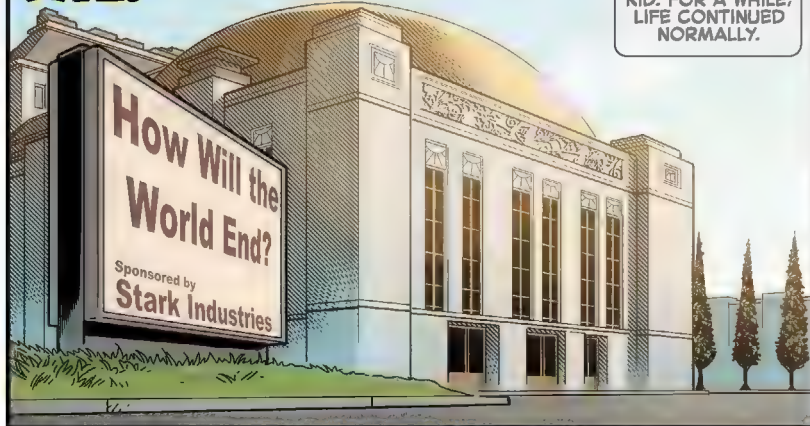
BONANZA! GUEST-STARRING... BEN GRIMM AS THE LONE HORSEMAN.

OH, THAT POOR HORSE.

...THEN TO AT LEAST FIND SOME PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE CAN ENJOY THE LACK OF ANSWERS.

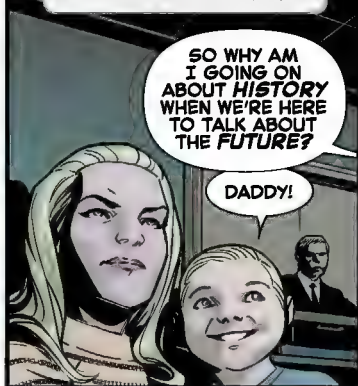


1972.



MARRIED. WITH A KID. FOR A WHILE, LIFE CONTINUED NORMALLY.

BUT THEN AGAIN, WHEN YOU'RE IN THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**, HOW **NORMAL** CAN LIFE EVER REALLY BE?



SO WHY AM I GOING ON ABOUT **HISTORY** WHEN WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE **FUTURE**?

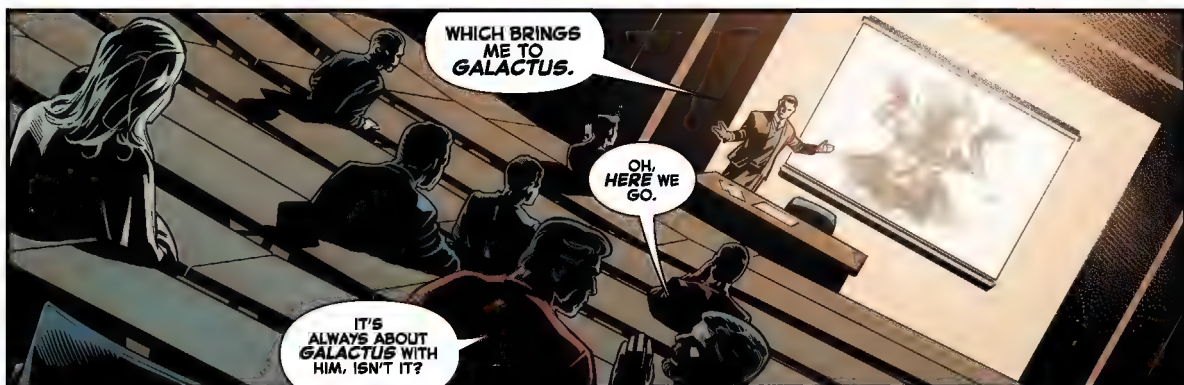
DADDY!



TO ANSWER THAT, ASK YOURSELF...WHAT DOES **EVERY SUCCESSFUL COLONIAL EMPIRE** IN HISTORY HAVE IN COMMON?

IN SHORT-- THEY CAN COME TO **YOUR HOME** WHILE YOU CAN'T GO TO **THEIRS**.

HISTORY IS THE STORY OF **CIVILIZATIONS**. AND IT'S A STORY THAT USUALLY COMES TO AN **ABRUPT END** THE MOMENT TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR STRANGERS ARRIVE.



WHICH BRINGS ME TO **GALACTUS**.

OH, HERE WE GO.

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT **GALACTUS** WITH HIM, ISN'T IT?

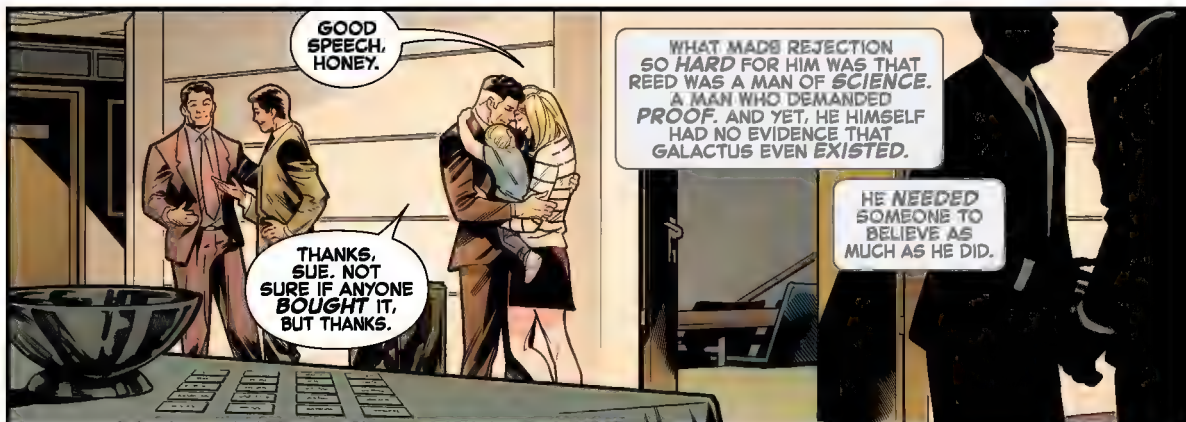


MAKE NO MISTAKE...HE IS **COMING**. AND WHEN HE ARRIVES, WE'D BETTER BE **READY**.

WHO'S NEXT?

I THINK IT'S THE **RADIOACTIVE ANT'S GUY**. WANNA GET LUNCH?





GOOD  
SPEECH,  
HONEY.

WHAT MADE REJECTION  
SO HARD FOR HIM WAS THAT  
REED WAS A MAN OF **SCIENCE**.  
A MAN WHO DEMANDED  
**PROOF**. AND YET, HE HIMSELF  
HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT  
GALACTUS EVEN EXISTED.

HE NEEDED  
SOMEONE TO  
BELIEVE AS  
MUCH AS HE DID.

THANKS,  
SUE. NOT  
SURE IF ANYONE  
BOUGHT IT,  
BUT THANKS.



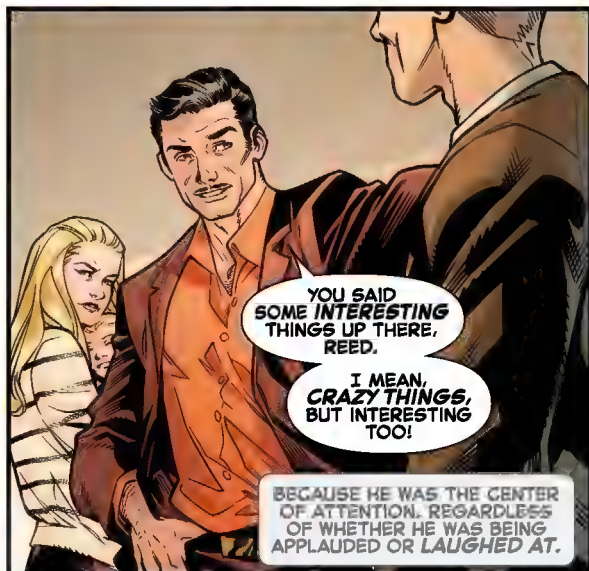
PEOPLE HAD  
A HARD TIME  
BELIEVING THE  
GALACTUS  
STUFF.

MR. STARK,  
YOU'VE MET MY  
WIFE, HAVEN'T  
YOU?

WHO  
COULD FORGET  
THE INVISIBLE  
WOMAN?

ALSO  
KNOWN AS  
SUE.

AND YET, THEY ALL **RESPECTED**  
HIM AS THE GREAT REED  
RICHARDS. MR. **FANTASTIC**.  
WHICH, IN A WAY, MADE IT **WORSE**.



YOU SAID  
SOME **INTERESTING**  
THINGS UP THERE,  
REED.

I MEAN,  
**CRAZY THINGS**,  
BUT INTERESTING  
TOO!

BECAUSE HE WAS THE CENTER  
OF ATTENTION. REGARDLESS  
OF WHETHER HE WAS BEING  
APPLAUDED OR LAUGHED AT.

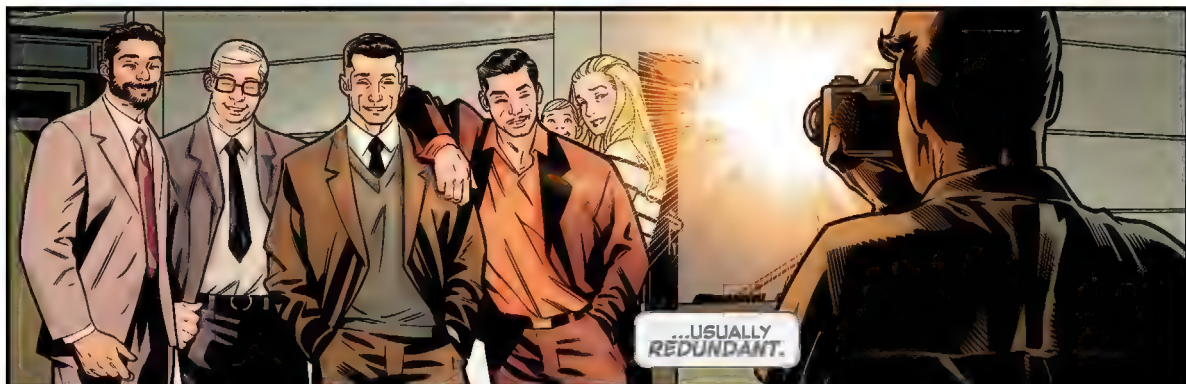


STILL, I THINK YOU'RE  
**CORRECT** ABOUT OFF-WORLD  
THREATS. **WHATEVER** SHOWS  
UP, WE NEED TO START  
PREPARING NOW.

DR. RICHARDS,  
CAN I GET A  
PICTURE WITH  
YOU?

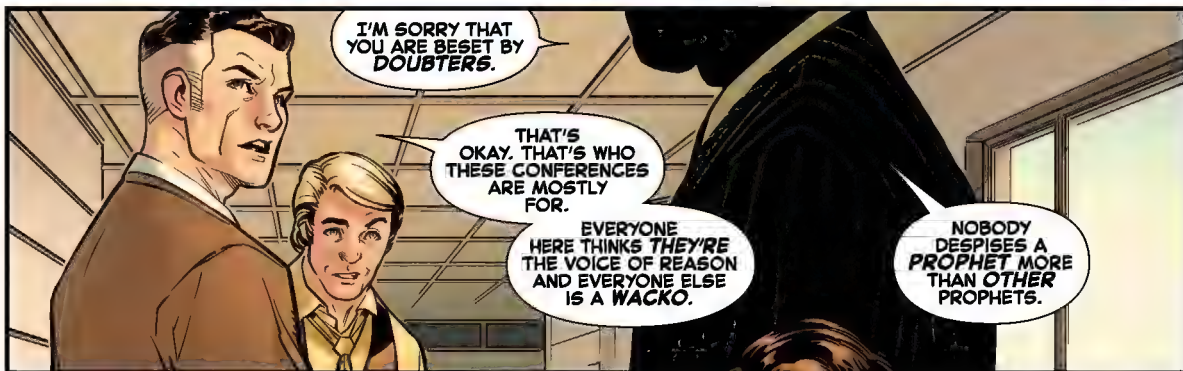
MR. STARK,  
COULD I TALK TO  
YOU ABOUT MY  
GRANTS?

**INVISIBILITY** IS AN  
OVERRATED POWER.  
AND AS THE WIFE OF  
REED RICHARDS...



...USUALLY  
**REDUNDANT**.







WHENEVER I BROUGHT UP HOW IGNORED I FELT, REED WOULD REMIND ME THAT I WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS HEROES ON THE PLANET.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND YOUR CELL MOST INFLAMMABLE, JOHNNY STORM.

INFLAMMABLE MEANING THAT IT WILL CATCH FIRE, OR THAT IT WON'T?

IT'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY CONFUSING WORD...

HEY, WHADDYA KNOW? I'M BUOYANT!

LET US OUT!

THUMP

NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE LOCATION OF MY SUBTERRANEAN LAIR? NOT LIKELY.

DON'T WORRY, DR. RICHARDS, EVENTUALLY *SOMEONE* WILL FIND YOU. ARCHAEOLOGISTS, MOST LIKELY.

AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING, MAD THINKER?

WE'RE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

YOU FILLED SUE'S TRAP WITH STEAM SO YOU COULD SEE HER SILHOUETTE.

SO... WHERE IS SHE?

AND, AS REED WOULD ARGUE, SOMETIMES BEING INVISIBLE CAME IN HANDY.





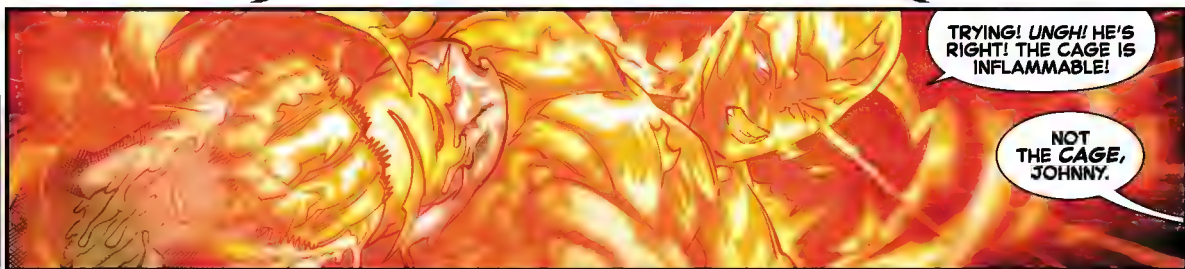
HANDY--FOR HIM.  
SOMEBODY HAD TO STAY  
HOME WITH FRANKLIN,  
AFTER ALL.



SHUT DOWN THE EXITS!  
WE'VE GOT TO FIND  
THE INVISIBLE  
WOMAN!



JOHNNY,  
NOW!



TRYING! UNGH! HE'S  
RIGHT! THE CAGE IS  
INFLAMMABLE!

NOT  
THE CAGE,  
JOHNNY.



THE  
STALACTITES!

CRUNK

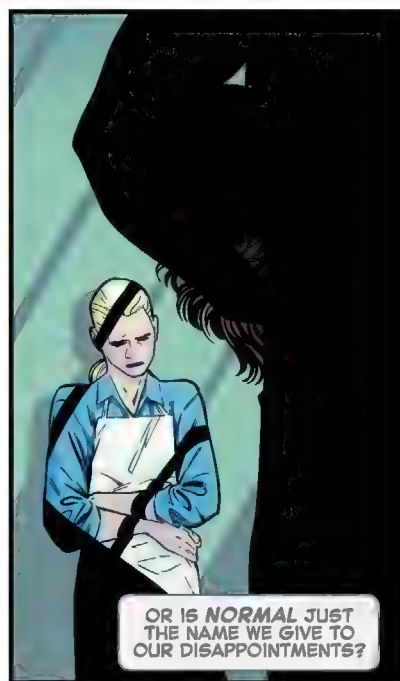
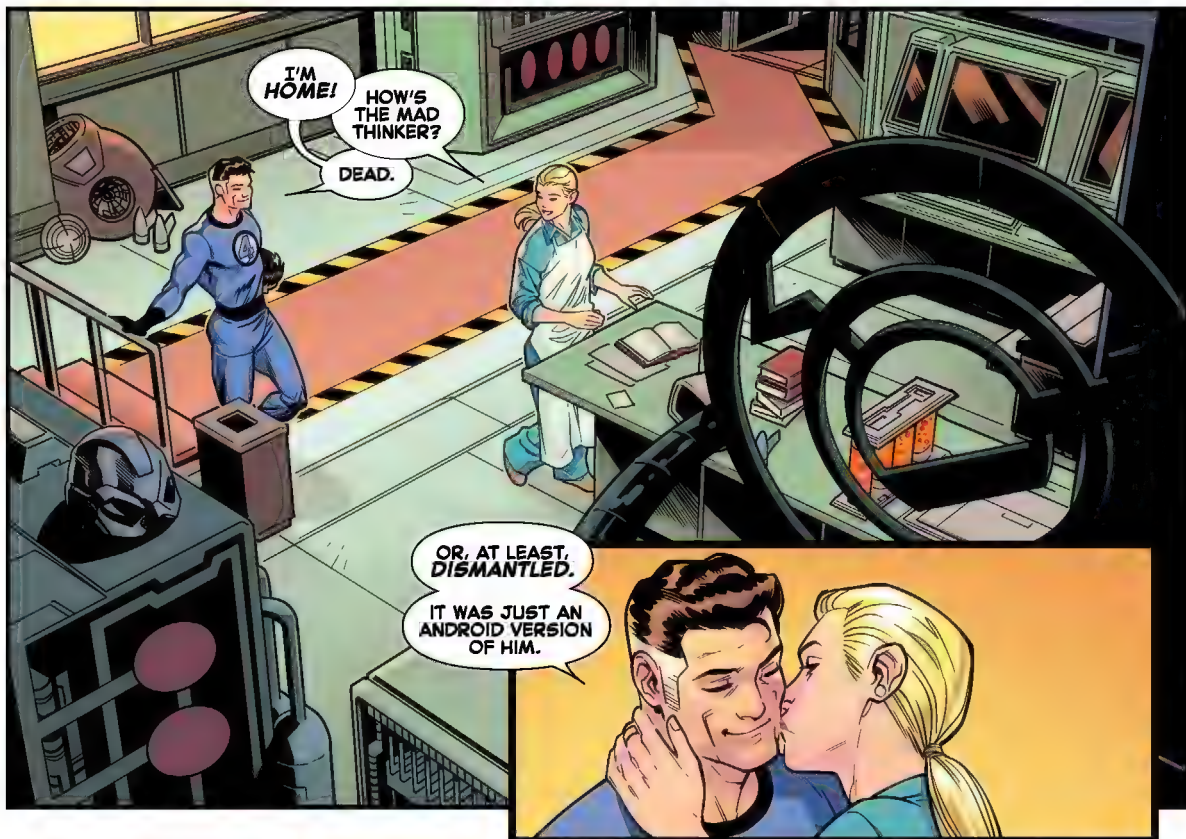
CRUNK



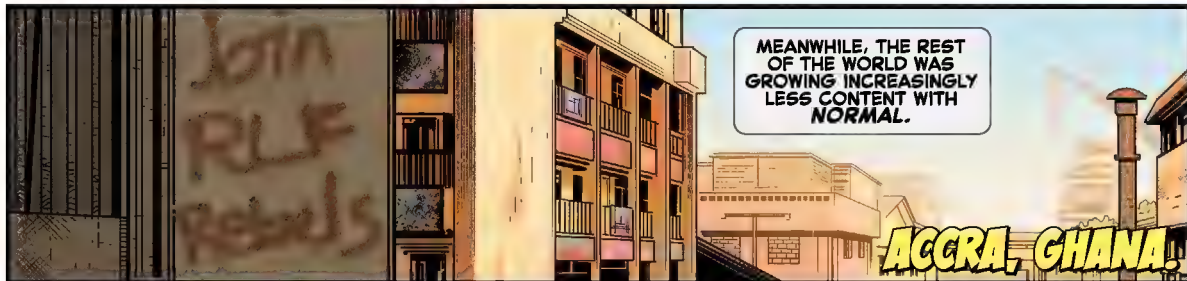
HMM. AN  
ANDROID.

C'MON,  
DOC! I'LL  
GET YA A NEW  
ONE AT RADIO  
SHACK!









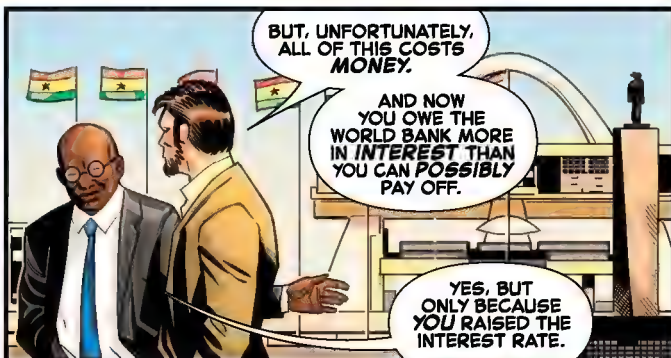
MEANWHILE, THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS GROWING INCREASINGLY LESS CONTENT WITH NORMAL.

**ACCRA, GHANA.**



WELCOME TO GHANA, MR. KLAU.

I WISH I WERE HERE UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.



BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, ALL OF THIS COSTS MONEY.

AND NOW YOU OWE THE WORLD BANK MORE IN INTEREST THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY PAY OFF.

YES, BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU RAISED THE INTEREST RATE.



THE INTEREST RATE IS TIED TO THE MARKET, MY FRIEND. AND THE MARKET CAN BE...VOLATILE.

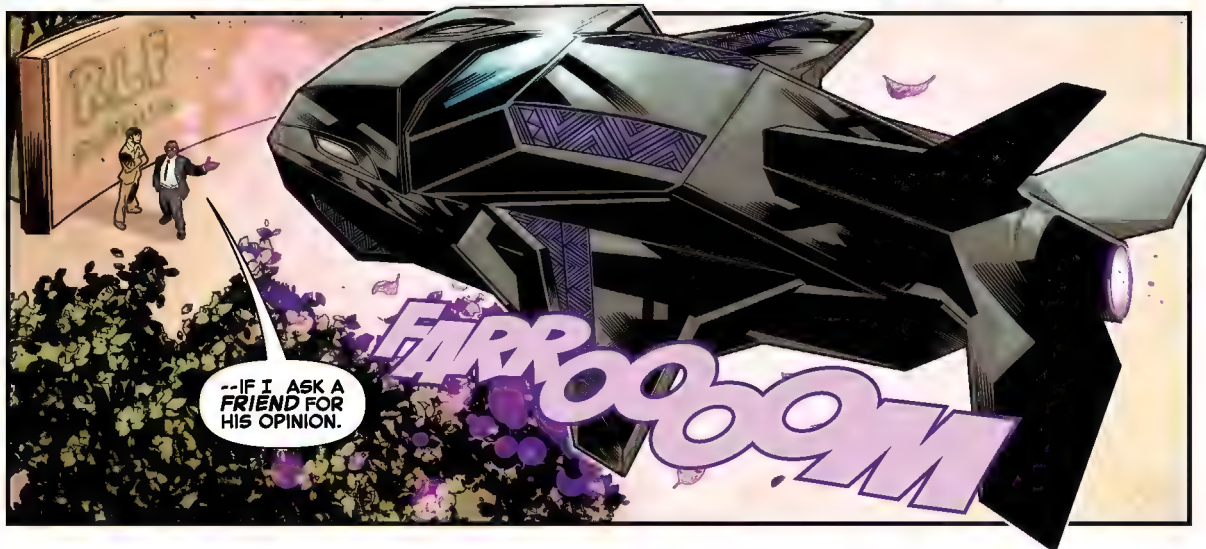
BUT THERE IS A WAY OUT. LEASE YOUR DIAMOND MINES TO US, AND WE CAN--

BUT THOSE ARE OUR MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME.



I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT THAT'S WHAT LEADERSHIP IS. AND IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS, THEN MAYBE THE REBELS--

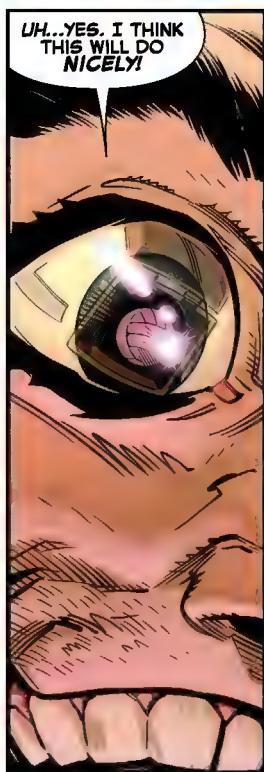
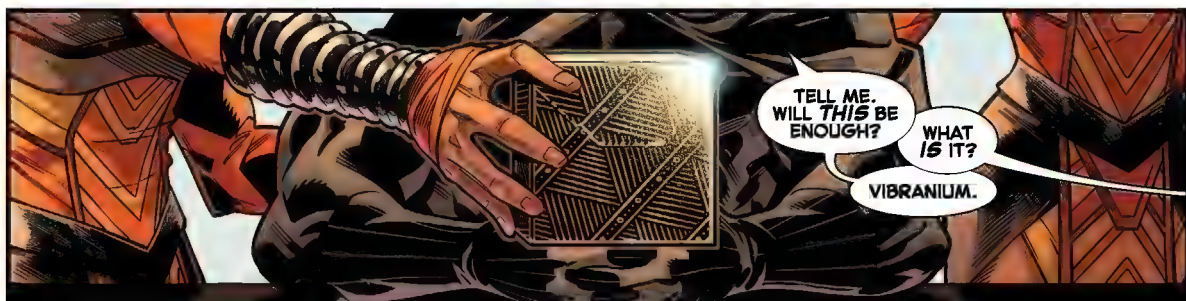
OF COURSE, YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. KLAU. IT IS A HARD CHOICE. SO I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND--



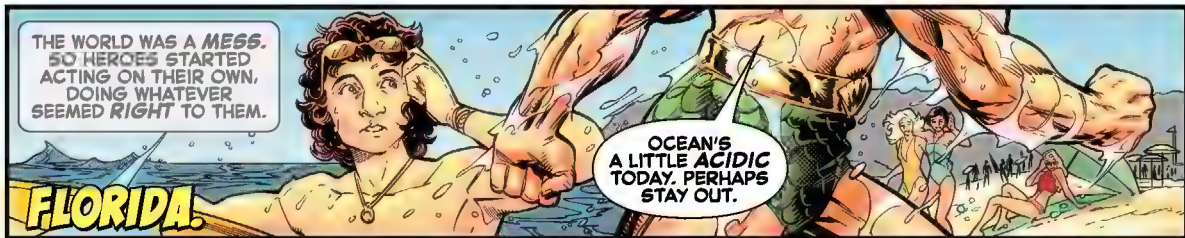
--IF I ASK A FRIEND FOR HIS OPINION.

**BOOM**









THE WORLD WAS A MESS.  
SO HEROES STARTED  
ACTING ON THEIR OWN,  
DOING WHATEVER  
SEEMED RIGHT TO THEM.

**FLORIDA.**

OCEAN'S  
A LITTLE ACIDIC  
TODAY. PERHAPS  
STAY OUT.



**VIETNAM.**

BECAUSE WHEN YOU CAN'T  
TRUST THOSE IN CHARGE  
TO DO THE RIGHT THING...

HEY, CAP!  
YER JUST IN TIME.  
WE GOT THESE--



...WHO ELSE  
IS THERE?

**FWANG**



PERHAPS REED  
IS RIGHT.  
MAYBE IT WOULD  
BE SMARTER TO  
JUST FOCUS ALL  
OUR EFFORTS  
ON GALACTUS.

IT'S  
OKAY, I'M  
LOCAL.

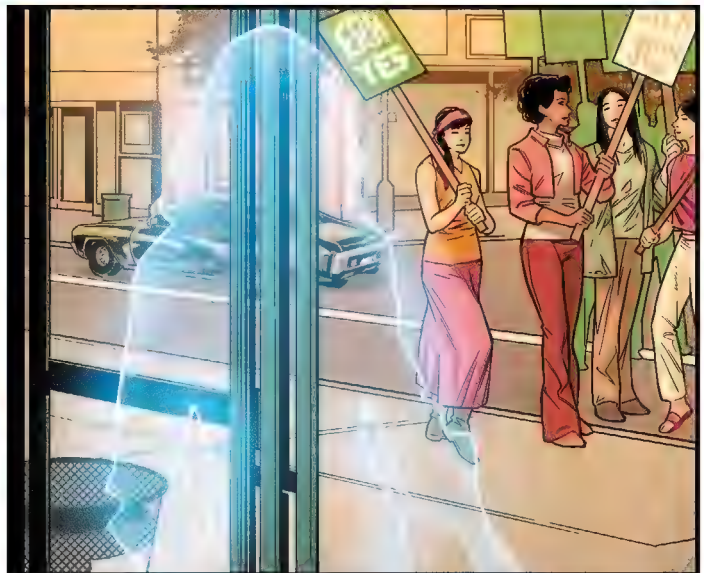
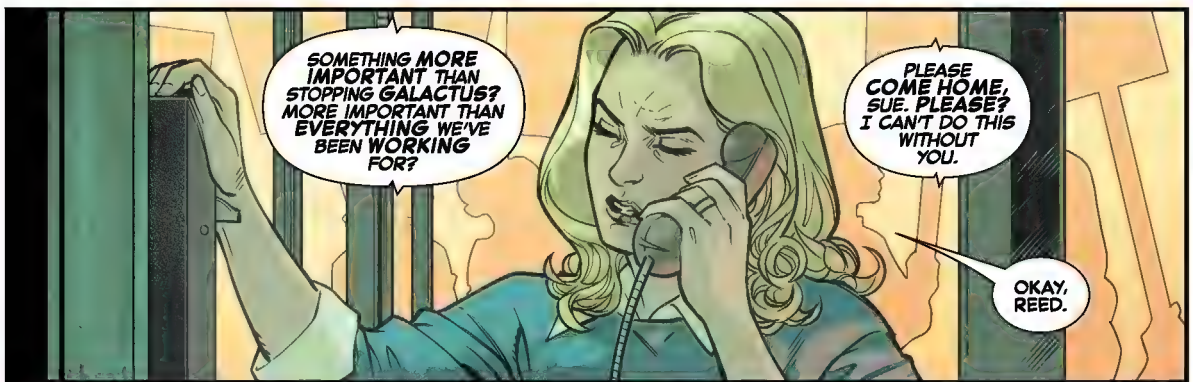
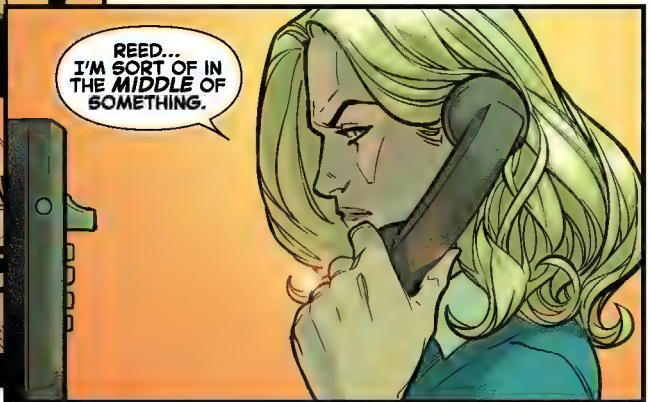
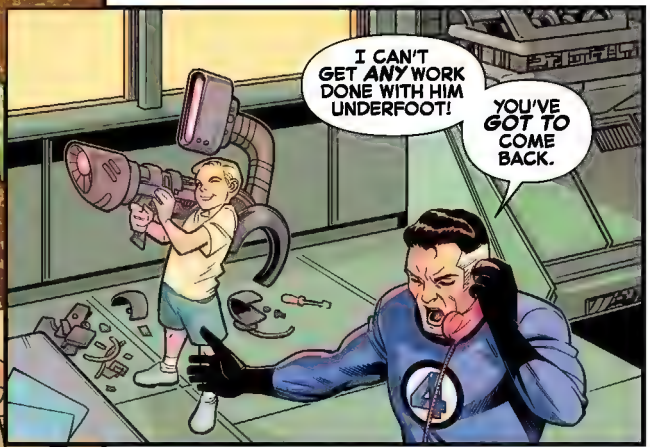
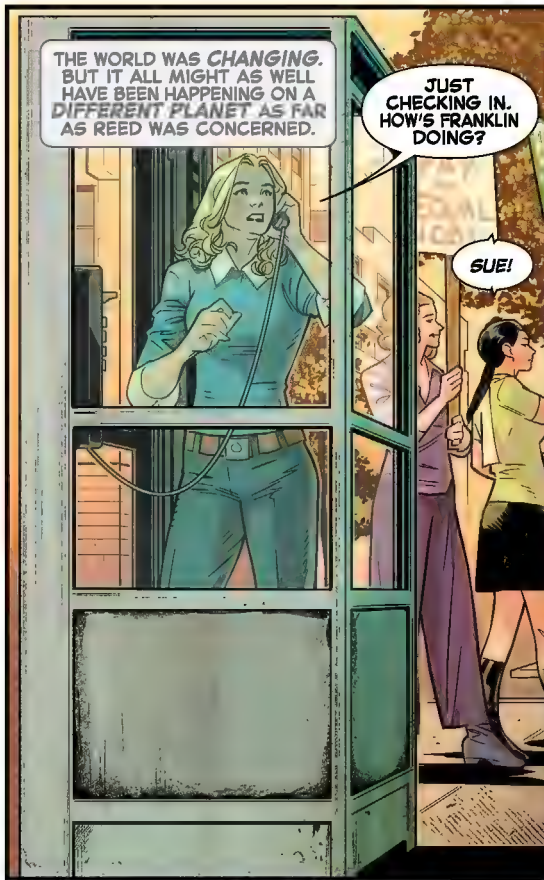


FORGET THE  
WORLD OUTSIDE  
OUR WINDOW.



BUT IF WE'RE EXPECTED  
TO SAVE THE WORLD...  
SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST  
TRY TO MAKE IT A PLACE  
WORTH SAVING?







# 1976. STARK INDUSTRIES.

AFTER THAT, I  
JUST SORT OF...  
DISAPPEARED.

IS THIS  
GOING TO DO THE  
TRICK? IS IT ENOUGH  
TO DEFEAT THIS  
**GALACTUS** OF  
YOURS?

PLEASE  
SAY **YES**. IT  
COST ME A  
HUNDRED  
MIL.

I'M SORRY,  
BUT I DON'T  
THINK SO.



BUT IT'S  
A GOOD  
START.

OH WELL.  
SPACE EXPLORATION,  
ASTEROID REPELLANT,  
TAX WRITE-OFF...  
I'M SURE IT'LL COME  
IN HANDY  
SOMEHOW.



SPEED AND  
FIREPOWER ARE  
**USELESS** IF WE DON'T SEE  
HIM COMING. THOUGH. THERE'S  
AN ASTRONOMER IN PUERTO  
RICO I WANT YOU TO  
TALK TO.

**GOOD.**  
I CAN USE ALL  
THE HELP I CAN  
GET. SPEAKING  
OF WHICH...



TONY, I'D LIKE TO  
INTRODUCE YOU TO  
**DOCTOR VON DOOM**.  
HE'S BEEN HELPING ME  
AT THE LAB.

VON DOOM?  
DUTCH?

LATVERIAN.



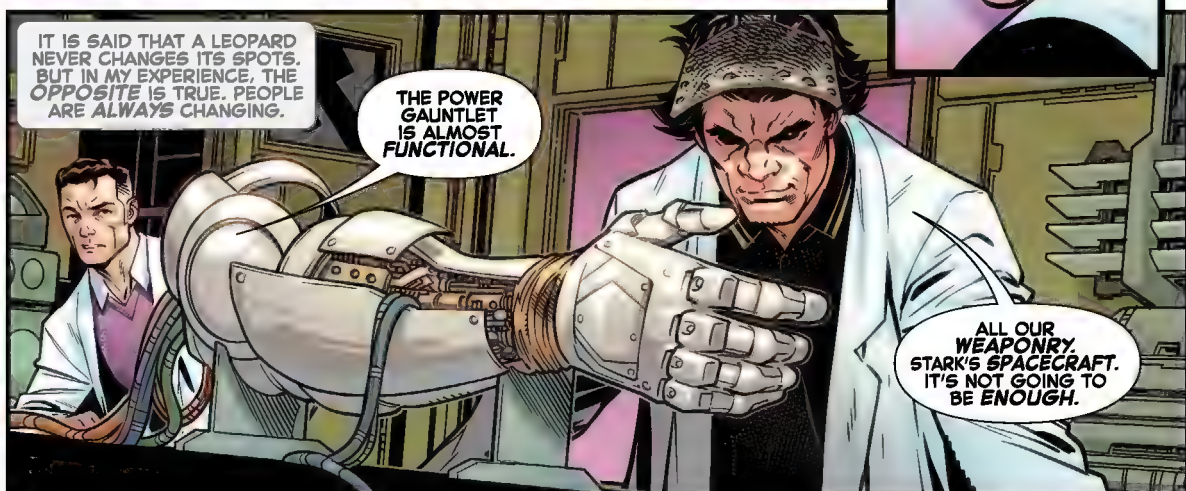
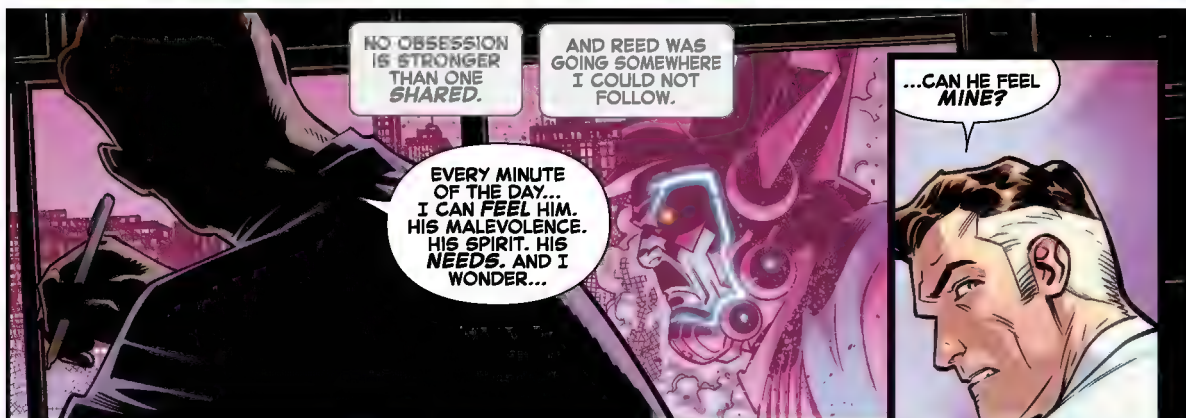
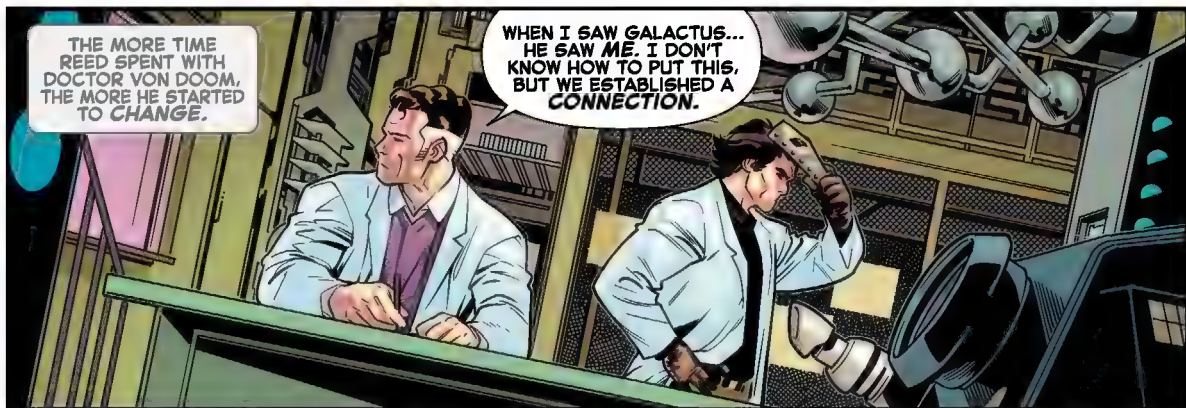
I'M **PROUD** TO  
WORK WITH MEN OF  
SUCH **VISION**. LET  
OTHERS SQUANDER  
THEIR ENERGY **FIXING**  
THE WORLD. IT IS MEN  
OF **STRENGTH** AND  
**WILLPOWER** WHO  
SHALL SAVE IT.



WELL, LET'S NOT  
GET AHEAD OF  
OURSELVES. IT'S NOT  
EVEN **INSURED**  
YET.

**WARRIOR**









REED WAS  
HAVING VISIONS  
OF GALACTUS.

HE WAS ALWAYS  
HAVING VISIONS  
OF GALACTUS.

TERRIFYING  
VISIONS.

OF OTHER  
WORLDS  
RECENTLY  
DESTROYED.

WORLDS  
CONSUMED.

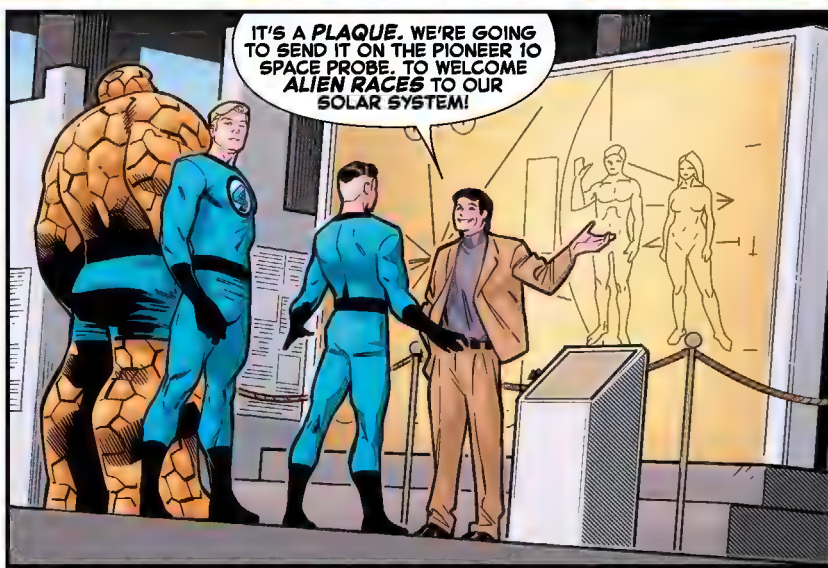
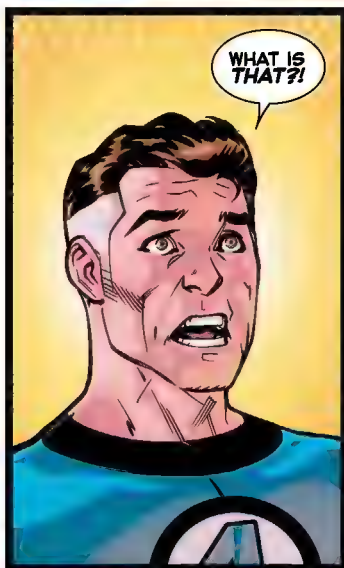
AS REED  
HIMSELF  
WAS BEING  
CONSUMED.

THE CLOSER  
GALACTUS GOT  
TO EARTH, THE  
STRONGER THE  
VISIONS BECAME.

REED?

AND THE FURTHER  
AWAY REED GOT.









ARE YOU CRAZY?!

**GALACTUS** IS OUT THERE! AND GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE!

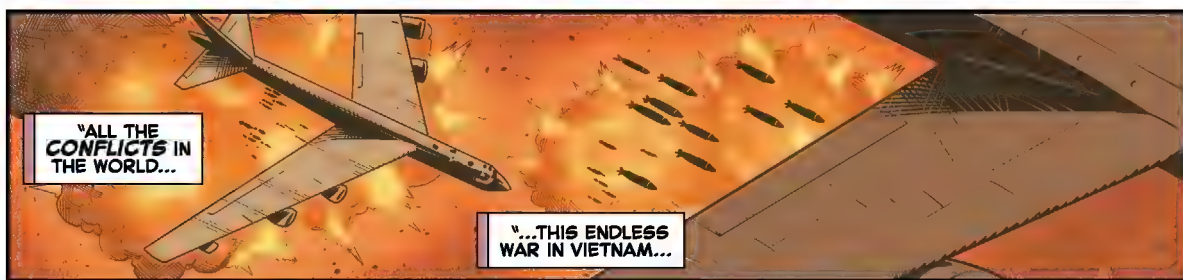
SETI SHOULD BE FINDING ALIEN CIVILIZATIONS SO WE CAN **STEER CLEAR** OF THEM! NOT INVITING THEM OVER FOR **BRUNCH!**



YOU COULD BE RIGHT. MAYBE THIS **GALACTUS** OF YOURS **IS** OUT THERE.

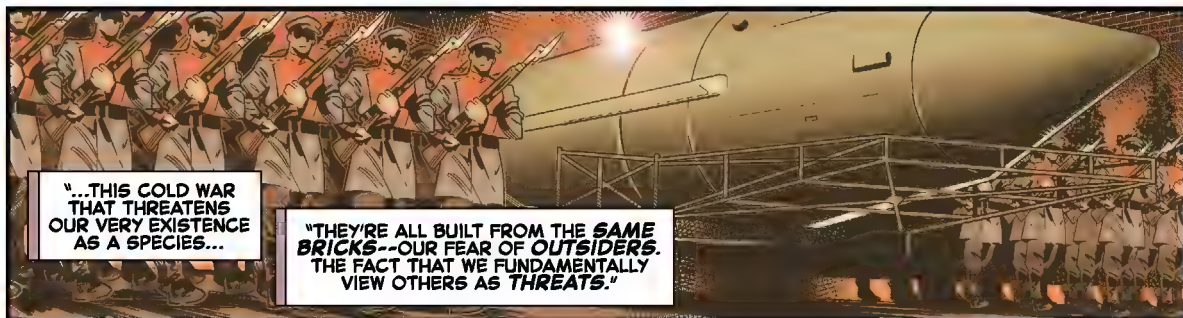
MAYBE WE WILL RUN INTO THE **WRONG** ALIENS.

IT'S CERTAINLY **POSSIBLE**. BUT HERE'S WHAT I KNOW FOR **SURE**.



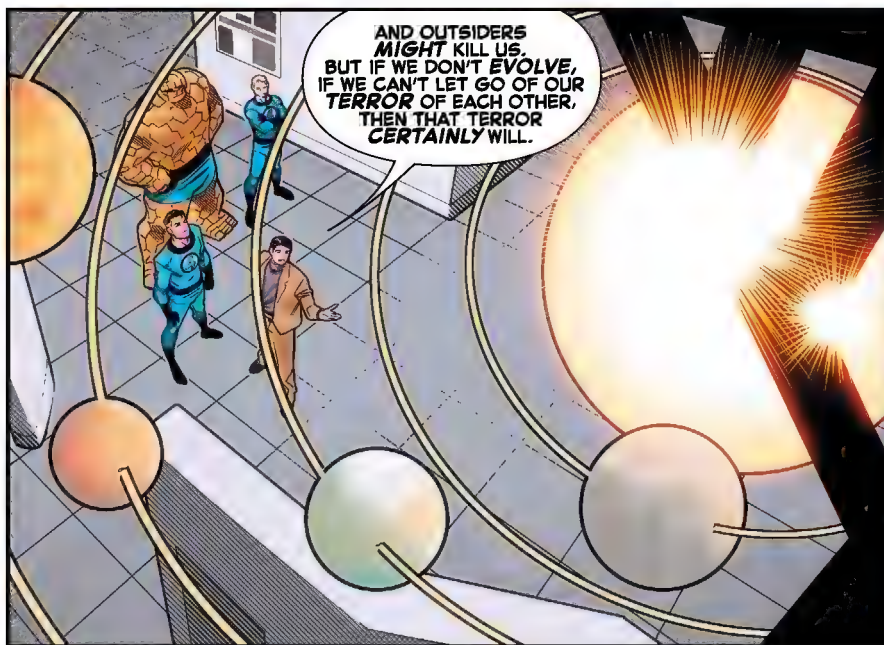
"ALL THE **CONFLICTS** IN THE WORLD..."

"...THIS **ENDLESS** WAR IN **VIETNAM**..."



"...THIS **COLD WAR** THAT **THREATENS** OUR VERY **EXISTENCE** AS A **SPECIES**..."

"THEY'RE ALL BUILT FROM THE **SAME BRICKS**--OUR **FEAR** OF **OUTSIDERS**. THE FACT THAT WE **FUNDAMENTALLY** VIEW OTHERS AS **THREATS**."



AND **OUTSIDERS** MIGHT KILL US. BUT IF WE DON'T **EVOLVE**, IF WE CAN'T LET GO OF OUR **TERROR** OF EACH OTHER, THEN THAT **TERROR** CERTAINLY WILL.



YOUR **FEAR** WON'T **SAVE** YOU, **REED**.

IT NEVER **COULD**.

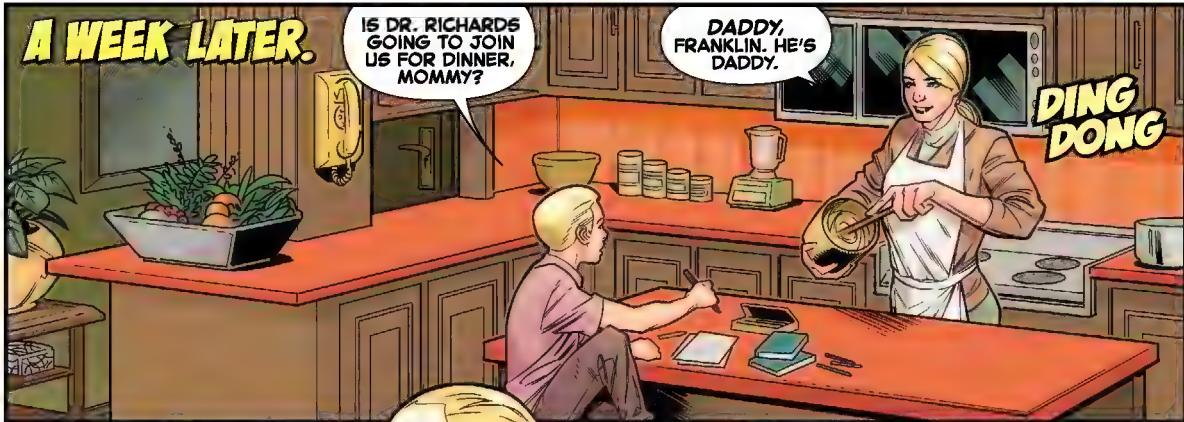


**A WEEK LATER.**

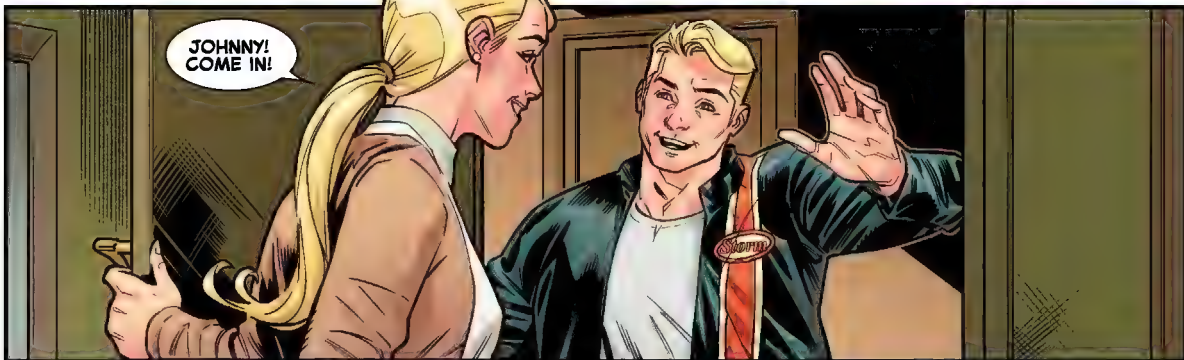
IS DR. RICHARDS GOING TO JOIN US FOR DINNER, MOMMY?

DADDY, FRANKLIN. HE'S DADDY.

**DING DONG**

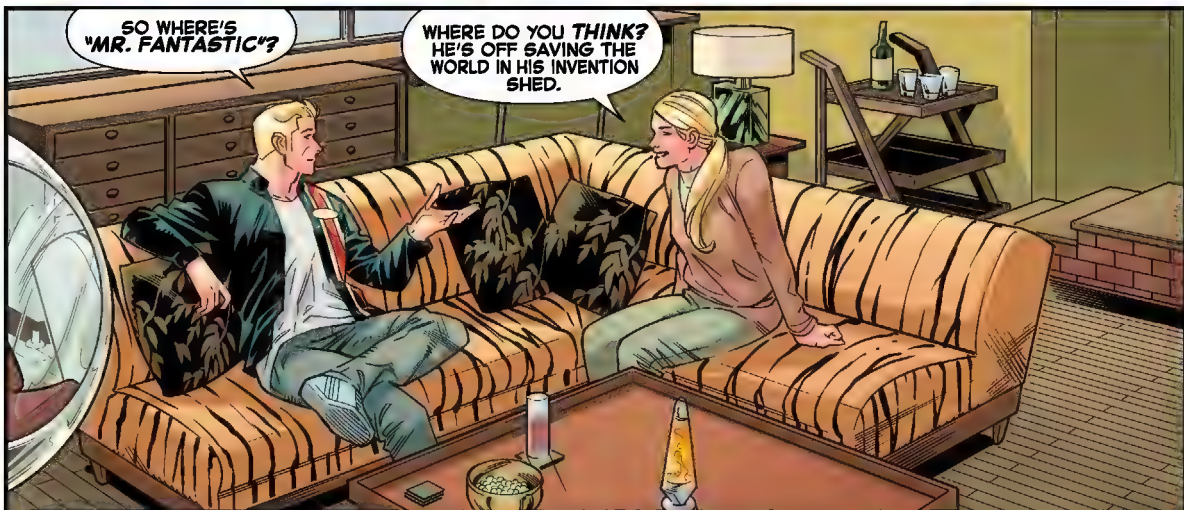


JOHNNY! COME IN!



SO WHERE'S "MR. FANTASTIC"?

WHERE DO YOU THINK? HE'S OFF SAVING THE WORLD IN HIS INVENTION SHED.



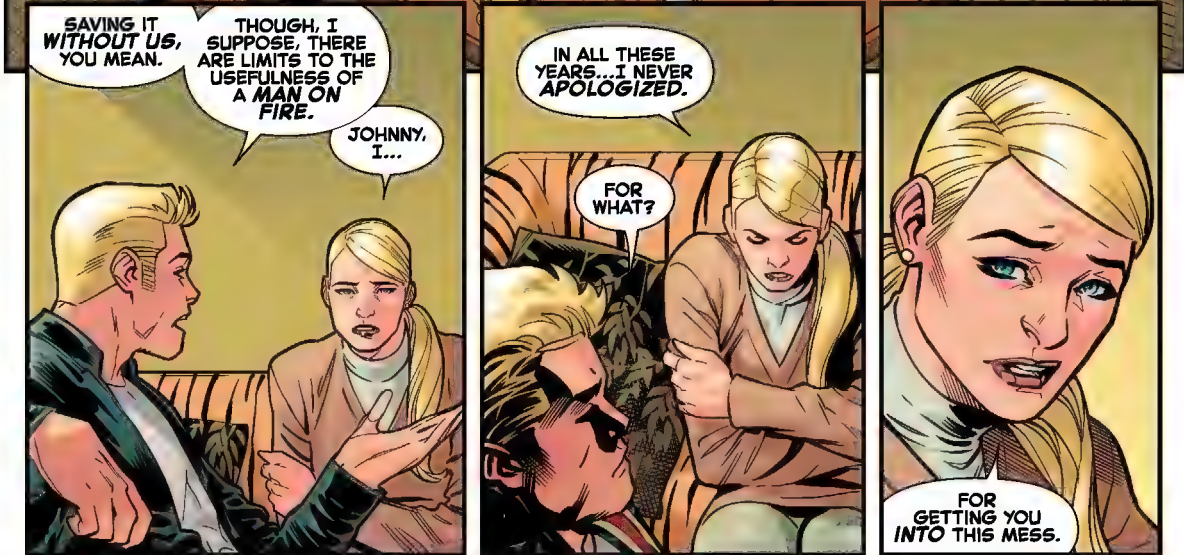
SAVING IT WITHOUT US, YOU MEAN.

THOUGH, I SUPPOSE, THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE USEFULNESS OF A MAN ON FIRE.

JOHNNY, I...

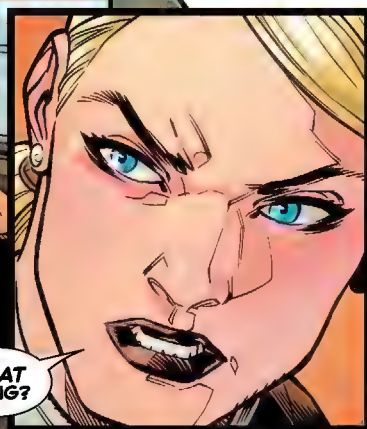
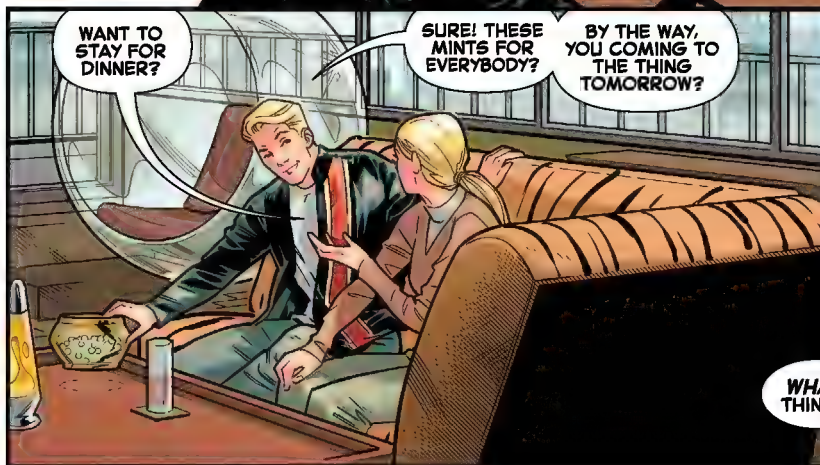
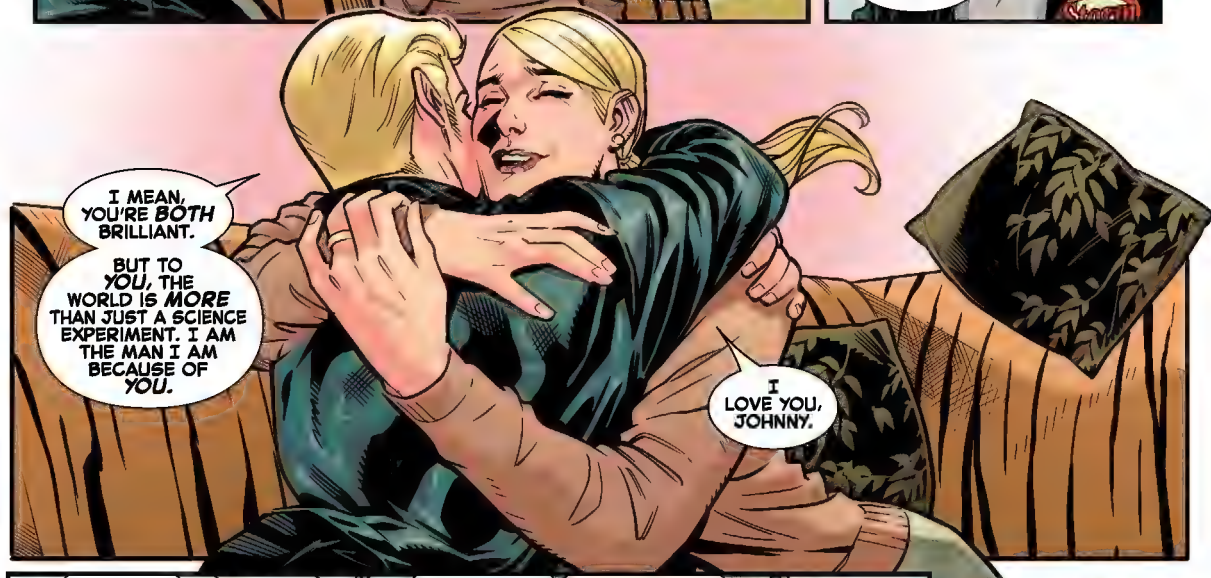
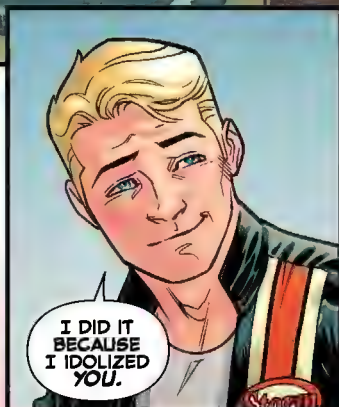
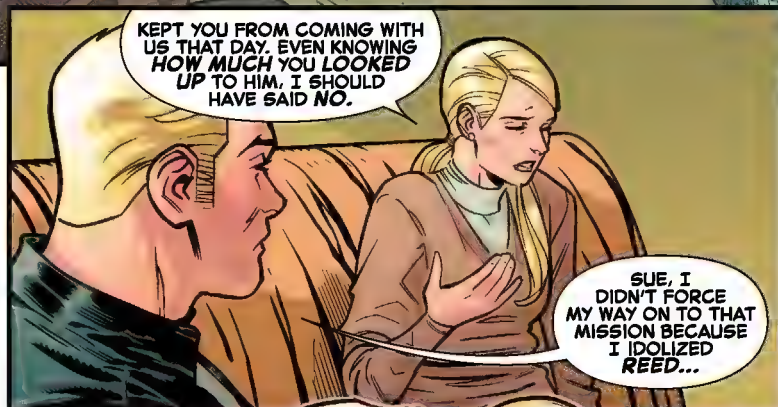
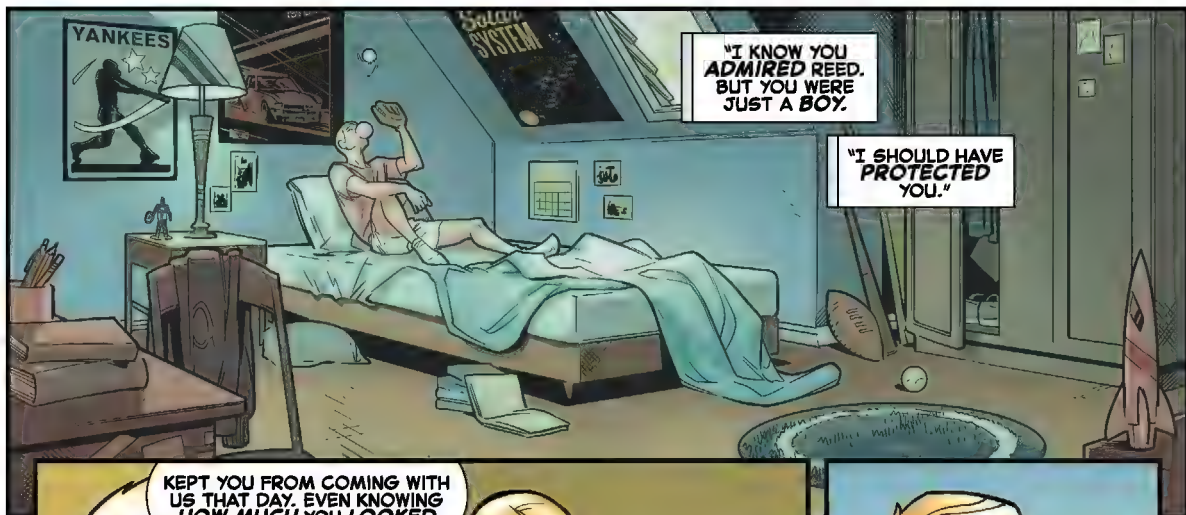
IN ALL THESE YEARS...I NEVER APOLOGIZED.

FOR WHAT?



FOR GETTING YOU INTO THIS MESS.









I SAID, "WE'RE THE FANTASTIC FOUR, REMEMBER?"

THE MAD THINKER COMPLETELY FREAKED OUT AND SUE WASN'T EVEN THERE.

HA! HA! WELL PLAYED, MY FRIEND!



IF WE COULD REPLICATE THIS TECHNOLOGY, CREATE AN ARMY OF ANDROIDS, WE COULD INCREASE OUR WORKLOAD EXPONENTIALLY.



REED! WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME?!

HUH? ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT THE MEETING OF HEROES? I WAS INVITED!



I DECLINED FOR BOTH OF US. WE'RE JUST SO BUSY. I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT TO GO.

WELL, THE NEXT TIME YOU KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING... LET ME IN ON THE SECRET!



SUE?

LET HER GO. HER EMOTIONAL FRAGILITY SERVES ONLY TO DISTRACT US.

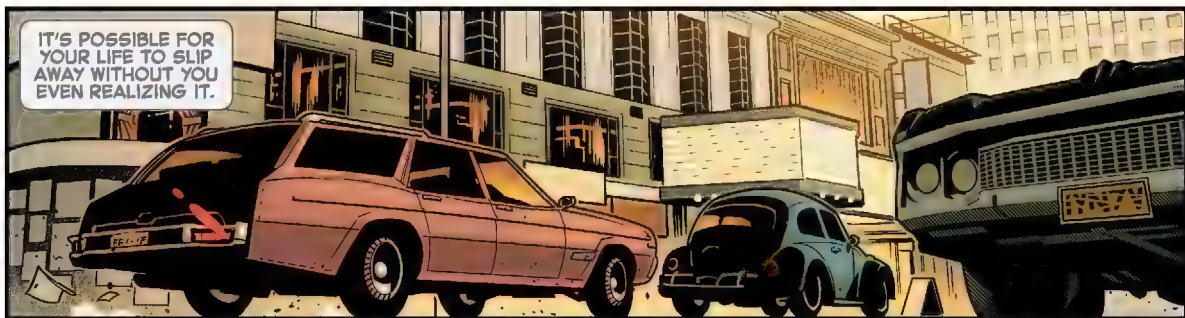
COME. THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO SHOW YOU.



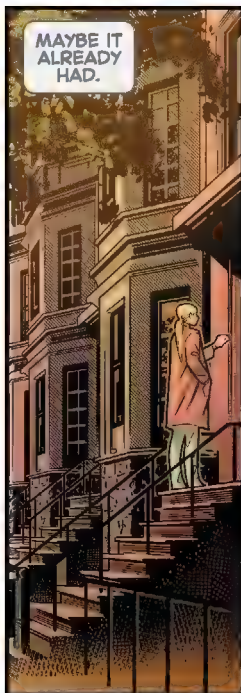
IT'S A MASK. IT HARNESSSES YOUR POWER. ALLOWS YOU TO FOCUS.

I MADE ONE FOR EACH OF US!

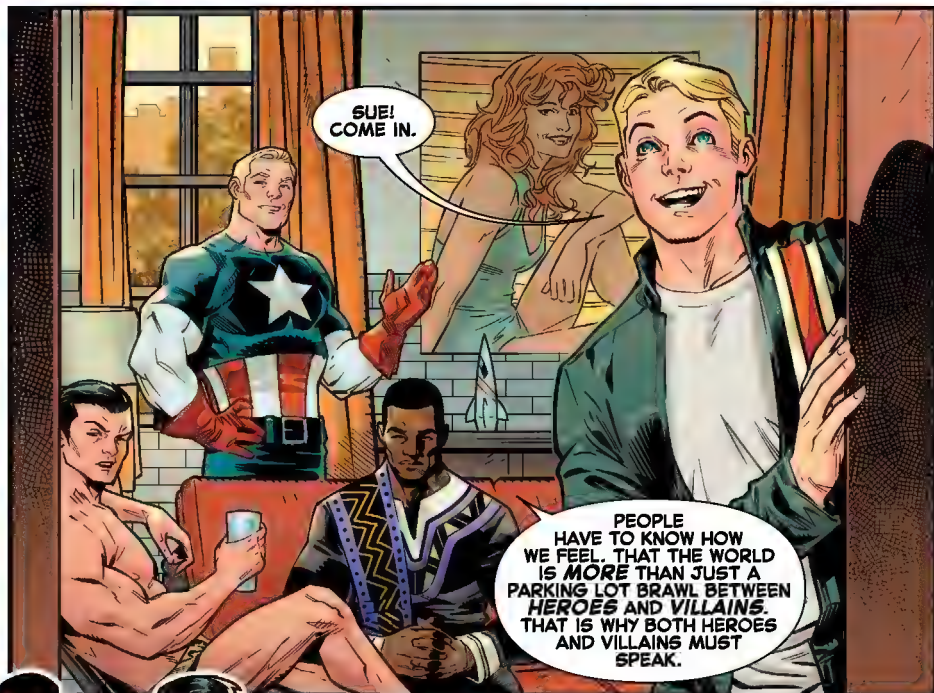




IT'S POSSIBLE FOR  
YOUR LIFE TO SLIP  
AWAY WITHOUT YOU  
EVEN REALIZING IT.



MAYBE IT  
ALREADY  
HAD.



SUE!  
COME IN.

PEOPLE  
HAVE TO KNOW HOW  
WE FEEL. THAT THE WORLD  
IS **MORE** THAN JUST A  
PARKING LOT BRAWL BETWEEN  
**HEROES** AND **VILLAINS**.  
THAT IS WHY BOTH **HEROES**  
AND **VILLAINS** MUST  
**SPEAK**.



SUSAN STORM,  
I'D LIKE TO  
INTRODUCE YOU  
TO NAMOR.

NICE TO  
BE ON THE  
SAME SIDE  
FOR ONCE.



I'VE ARRANGED FOR US TO  
SPEAK ON THE FLOOR OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS TOMORROW.  
TO EXPRESS OUR  
VISION.

SUSAN,  
YOU SHOULD  
SPEAK.

ME?



IT WOULDN'T HURT OUR CAUSE TO  
HAVE **SOMEONE** REPRESENTING  
**HALF THE WORLD'S**  
**POPULATION**.

I DON'T  
KNOW. IT'S  
BEEN SO LONG.  
I'M REALLY MORE OF  
JUST A MOM NOW.



WHILE I WAS IN THE CITY, THERE WAS A BOOK SIGNING I WANTED TO GO TO.

BUT I KEPT THINKING ABOUT NAMOR'S OFFER.



IF I COULD FIGHT ON BEHALF OF THE HUMAN RACE, WHY WAS I AFRAID TO SPEAK FOR IT?

WAS I SO USED TO BEING IGNORED THAT IT FELT NORMAL TO ME?

SUE STORM? OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR?

I HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

WELL, YOU KNOW...

COULD YOU MAKE IT OUT TO SUE STORM?



...I'VE BEEN KEEPING BUSY.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.  
YOUR BOOK.



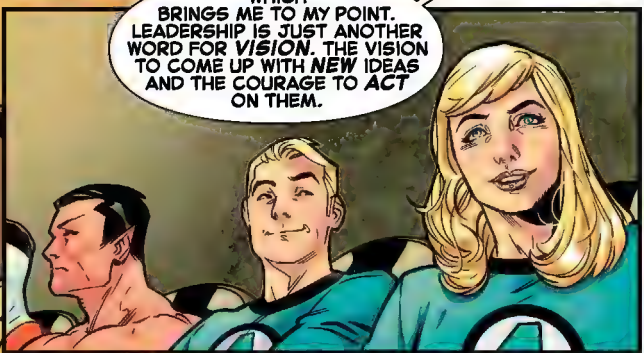
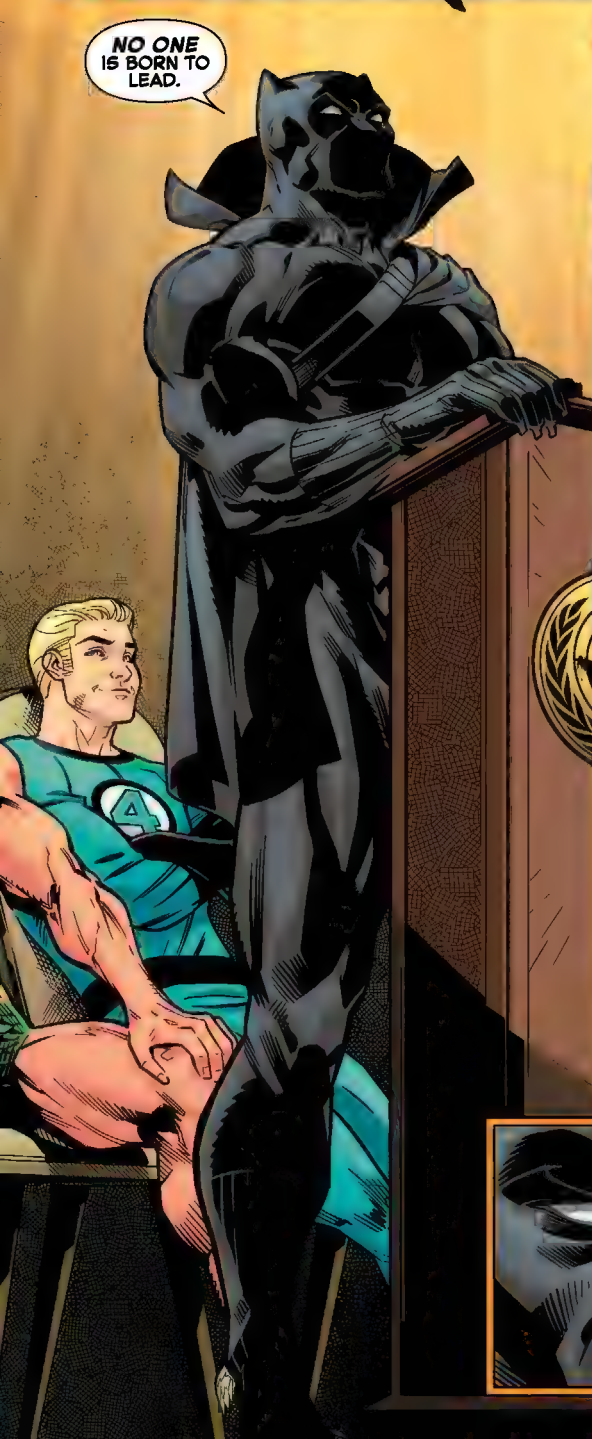
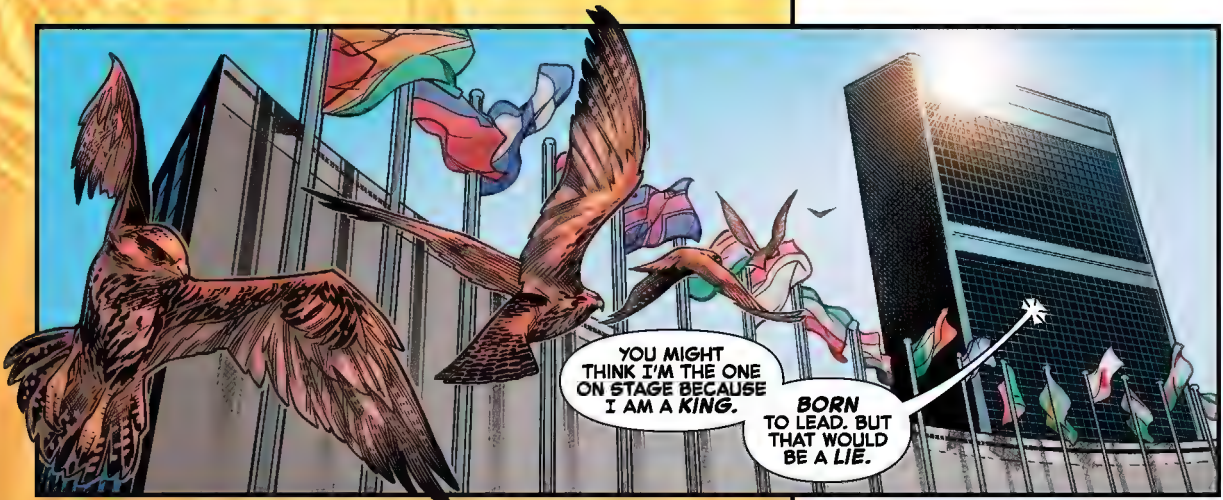
HAD I STOPPED GROWING?



Don't stay.  
invisible forever.  
-Love, Betty



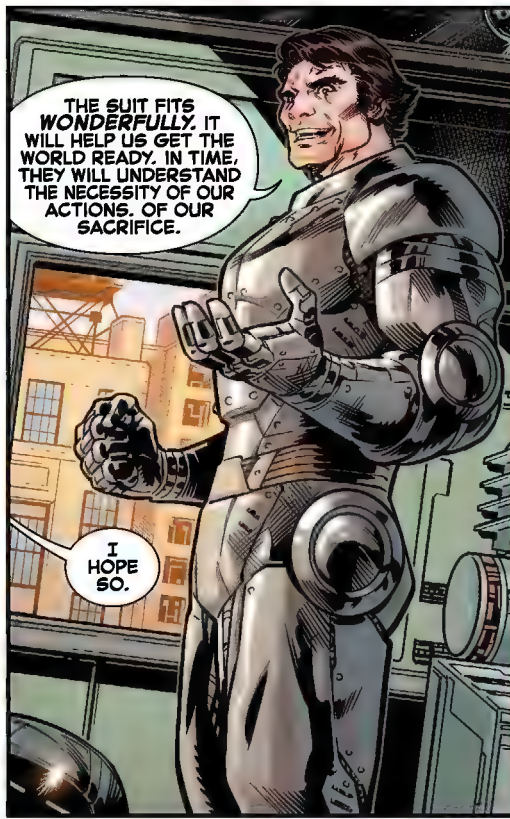








WE'RE GETTING SO MUCH MORE WORK DONE WITH YOUR FAMILY OUT OF THE WAY.



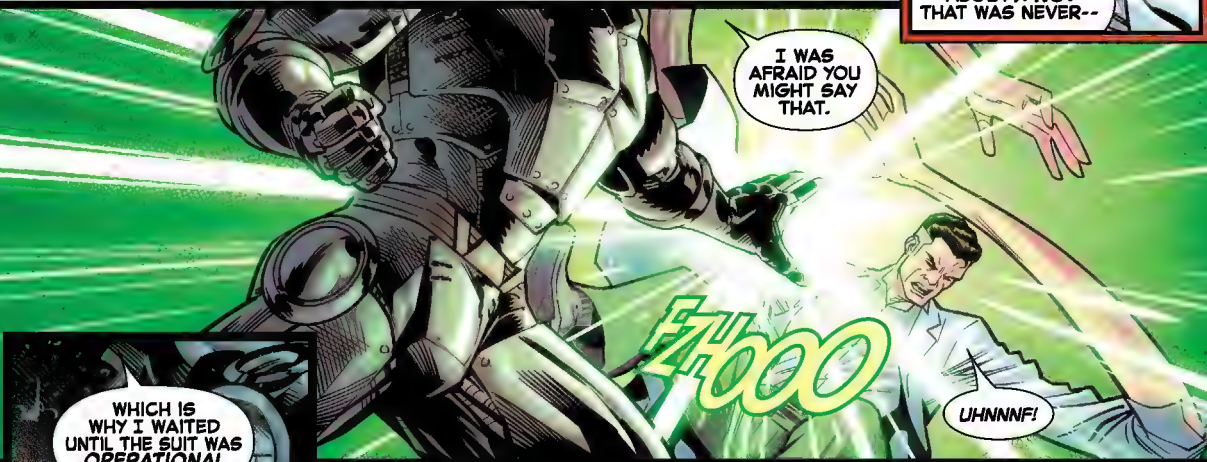
THE SUIT FITS WONDERFULLY. IT WILL HELP US GET THE WORLD READY. IN TIME, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF OUR ACTIONS. OF OUR SACRIFICE.

I HOPE SO.



MOST OF THE HEROES WHO WOULD STAND IN OUR WAY ARE AT THE UNITED NATIONS AS WE SPEAK. IF WE ATTACK NOW, THE WORLD WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RALLY BEHIND US. TO TAKE THE THREAT OF GALACTUS SERIOUSLY.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! NO! THAT WAS NEVER--



I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.

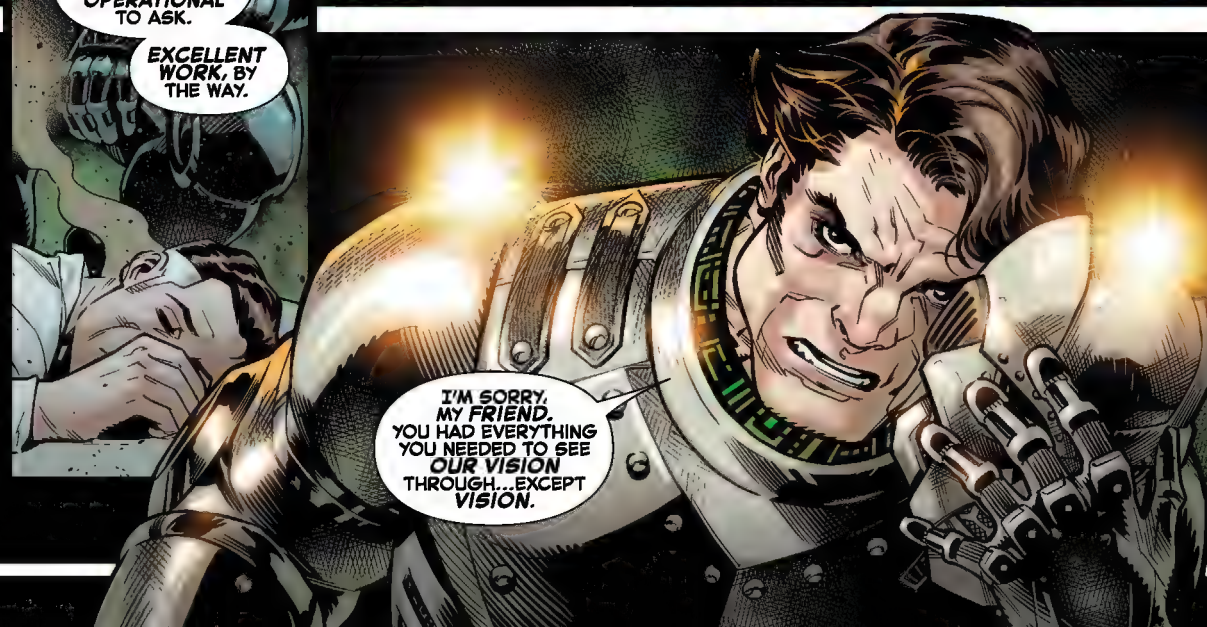
FWOOO

UHHNNF!



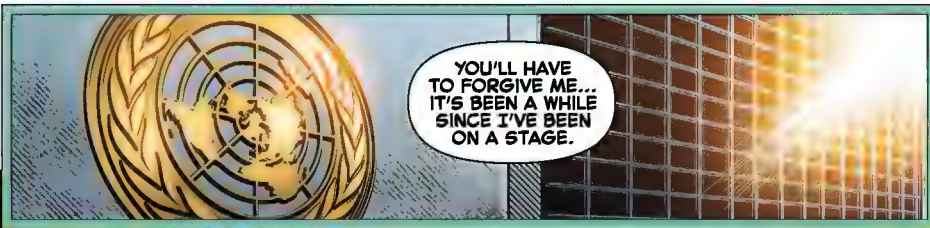
WHICH IS WHY I WAITED UNTIL THE SUIT WAS OPERATIONAL TO ASK.

EXCELLENT WORK, BY THE WAY.

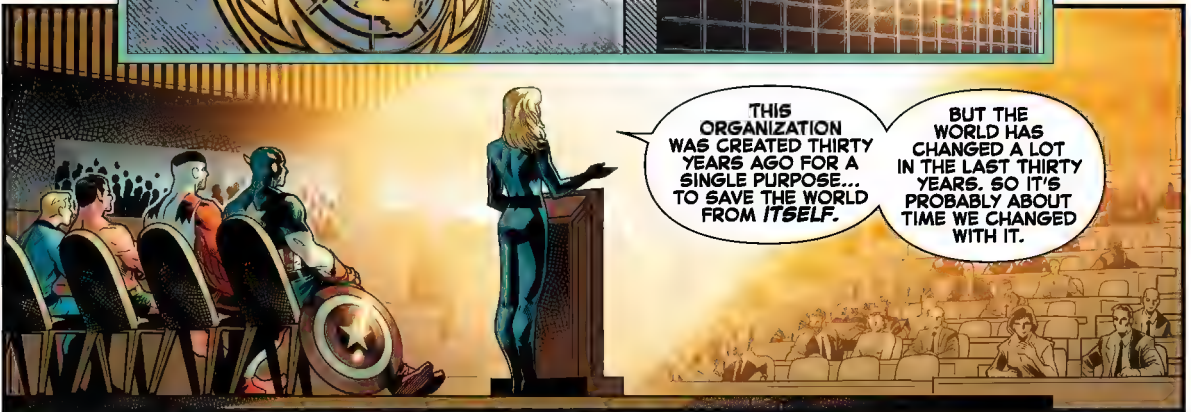


I'M SORRY, MY FRIEND. YOU HAD EVERYTHING YOU NEEDED TO SEE OUR VISION THROUGH...EXCEPT VISION.





YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME... IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN ON A STAGE.



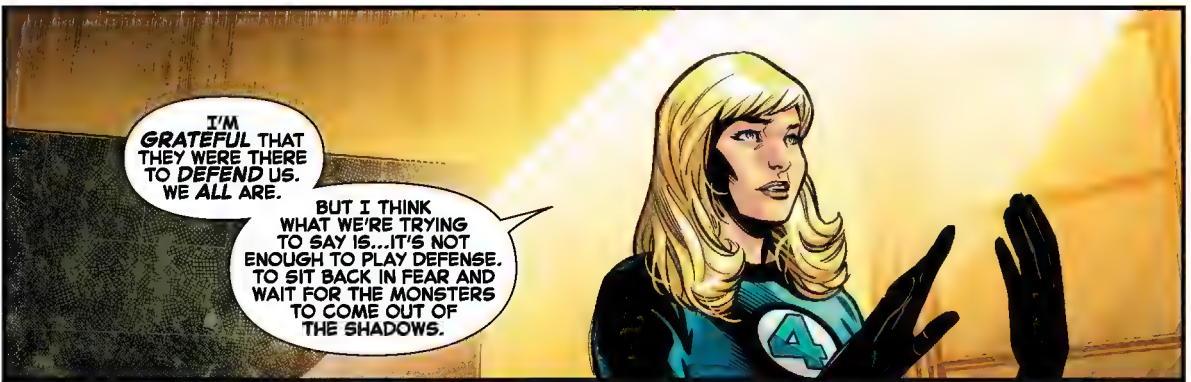
THIS ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED THIRTY YEARS AGO FOR A SINGLE PURPOSE... TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM *ITSELF*.

BUT THE WORLD HAS CHANGED A LOT IN THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. SO IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT TIME WE CHANGED WITH IT.



MY FATHER, AND MANY LIKE HIM, FOUGHT IN THE **SECOND WORLD WAR**. THEY FOUGHT TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM **MONSTERS**.

AND IF THEY HADN'T WON, WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY.



I'M GRATEFUL THAT THEY WERE THERE TO DEFEND US. WE ALL ARE.

BUT I THINK WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO SAY IS...IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO PLAY DEFENSE. TO SIT BACK IN FEAR AND WAIT FOR THE MONSTERS TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS.



"IF WE'RE EVER REALLY GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD, WE MUST GO ON THE **OFFENSIVE**."



THE WORLD WILL NEVER TRULY CHANGE UNTIL IT IS THE **MONSTERS** WHO LIVE IN FEAR.

AND IT IS WE WHO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS.







WITH THE POWER  
OF THIS SUIT,  
I CAN DISINTEGRATE  
YOU WITH A GLANCE  
OR TURN YOU TO  
LIVING STONE.

WHEN I RULE  
THE EARTH, YOU'LL  
MAKE EXCELLENT  
DECOR FOR MY  
PALACE.

A REMINDER,  
PERHAPS, OF  
THE FATALITY OF  
WEAKNESS.

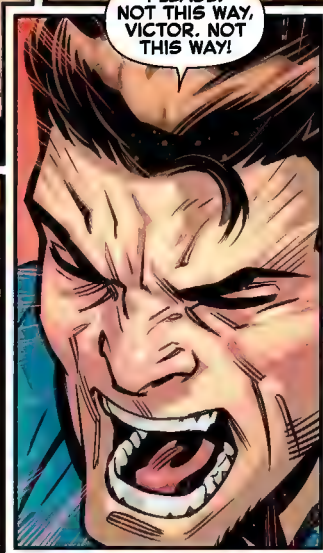
OF  
HESITATION.

CAN'T...  
MOVE...

UNNGHH!





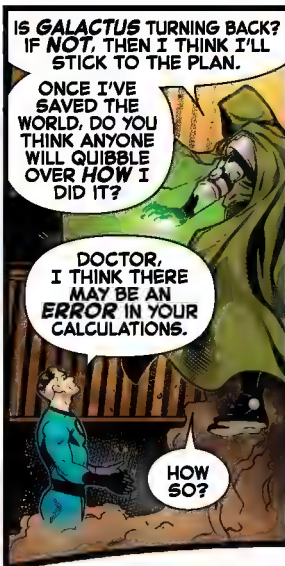






IT'S DOCTOR DOOM NOW. JUST SOUNDS CATCHIER. DON'T YOU THINK?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK.



IS GALACTUS TURNING BACK? IF NOT, THEN I THINK I'LL STICK TO THE PLAN.

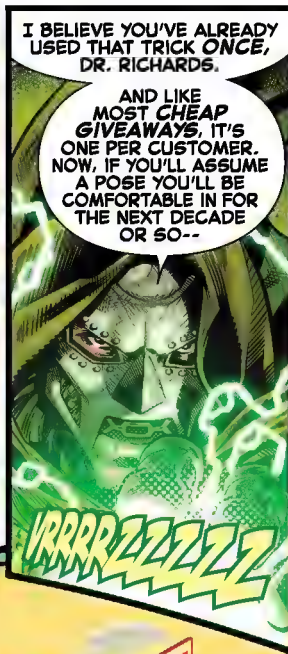
ONCE I'VE SAVED THE WORLD, DO YOU THINK ANYONE WILL QUIBBLE OVER HOW I DID IT?

DOCTOR, I THINK THERE MAY BE AN ERROR IN YOUR CALCULATIONS.

HOW SO?



WELL, I DON'T SEE SUE STORM AROUND DO YOU?



I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY USED THAT TRICK ONCE, DR. RICHARDS.

AND LIKE MOST CHEAP GIVEAWAYS, IT'S ONE PER CUSTOMER. NOW, IF YOU'LL ASSUME A POSE YOU'LL BE COMFORTABLE IN FOR THE NEXT DECADE OR SO--

RRRRZZZZZZ



HUUUNH!

AAAARGH!



SUE!

REED... I THINK WE NEED TO TALK.





1979.

WHAT'S  
THE MATTER  
WITH HIM?

IT WASN'T  
EASY TO  
LEAVE REED.

HIS  
WIFE LEFT  
HIM!

COULD  
YOU NOT  
SHOUT  
THAT?

GEEZ WITH PEAS, BUDDY!  
YER WIFE JUST LEFT YA! IT'S  
OKAY TO CRY. TO THROW  
A FIT, Y'KNOW?

NOT IN MY  
BAR.

TONY, POUR  
MY FRIEND  
A DEAD  
RUSSIAN.

WHAT'S  
IN A DEAD  
RUSSIAN?

A LOTTA  
VODKA. AND  
ASPIRIN. BUT  
MOSTLY  
VODKA.

IT WASN'T  
EASY ON  
ANYONE.

YOU'LL SEE  
DR. RICHARDS  
ON THE WEEKEND.  
FRANKLIN.

DADDY.

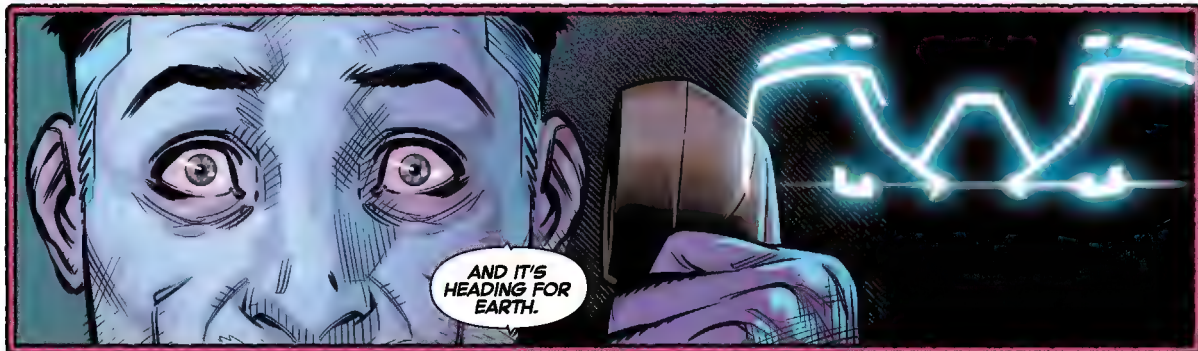
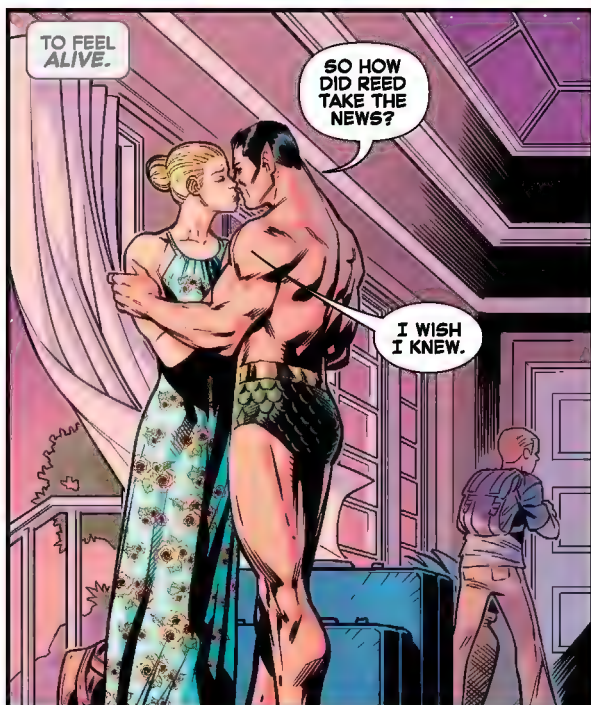
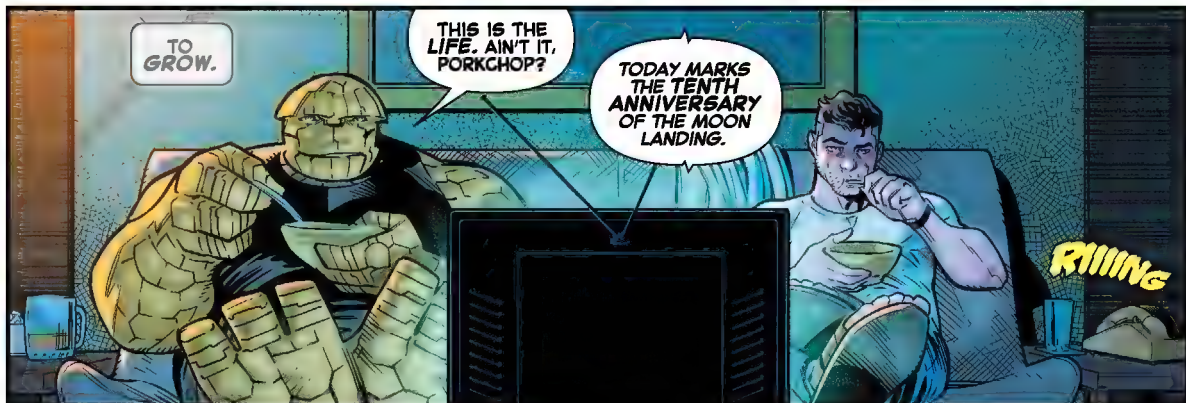
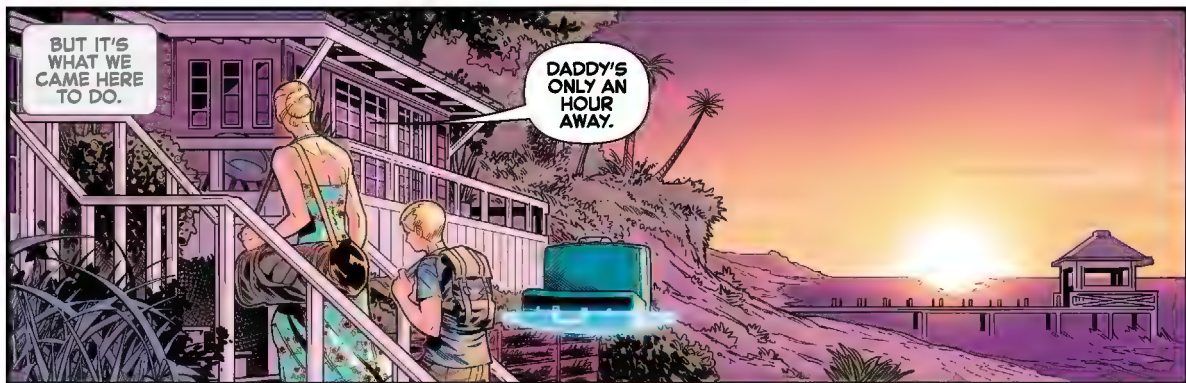
HIS  
NAME IS  
DADDY.

GROWING  
IS USUALLY  
PAINFUL.

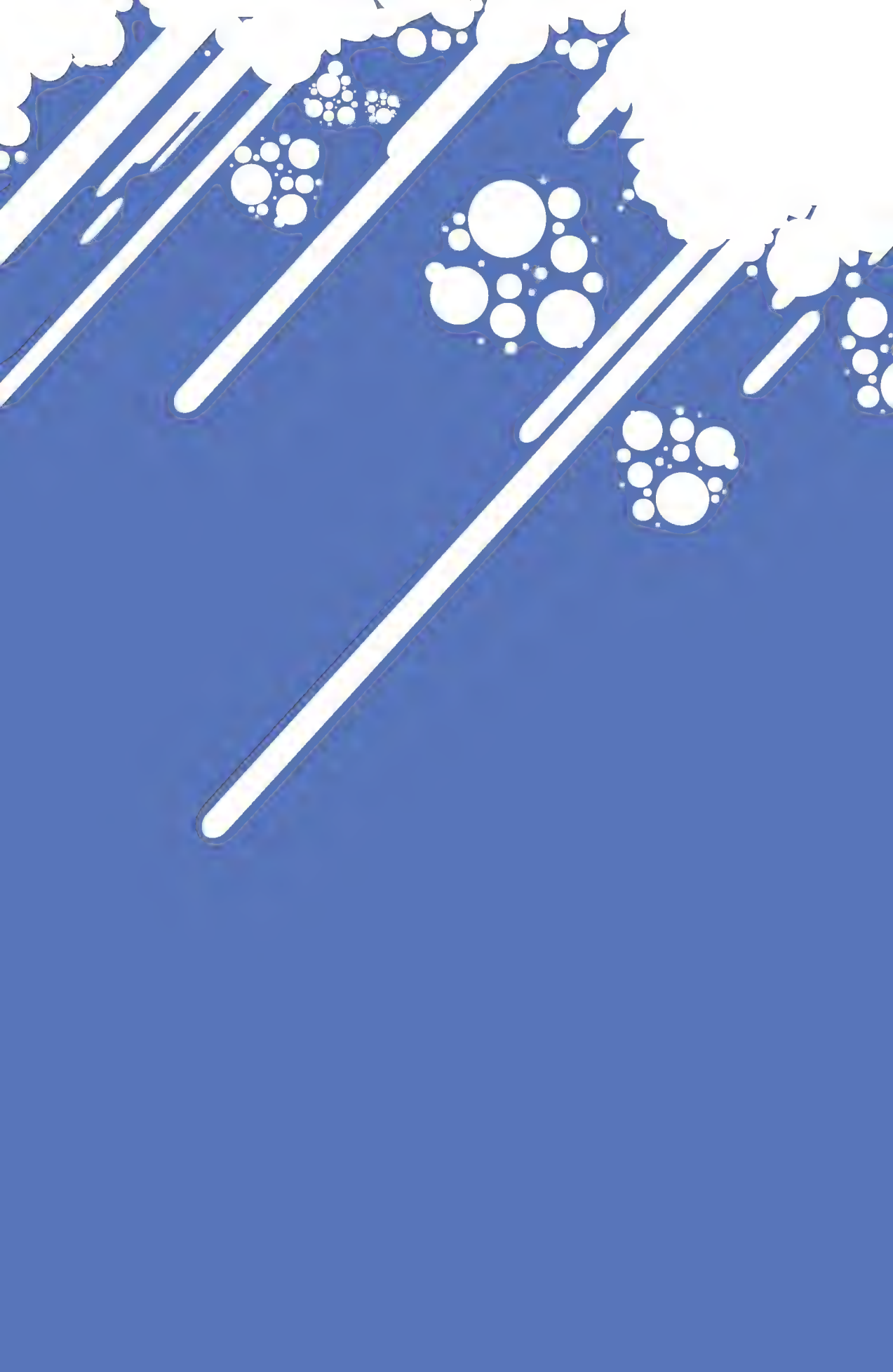
BEN?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

WHADDYA  
MEAN?  
I'M MOVIN' IN  
WIT YA!

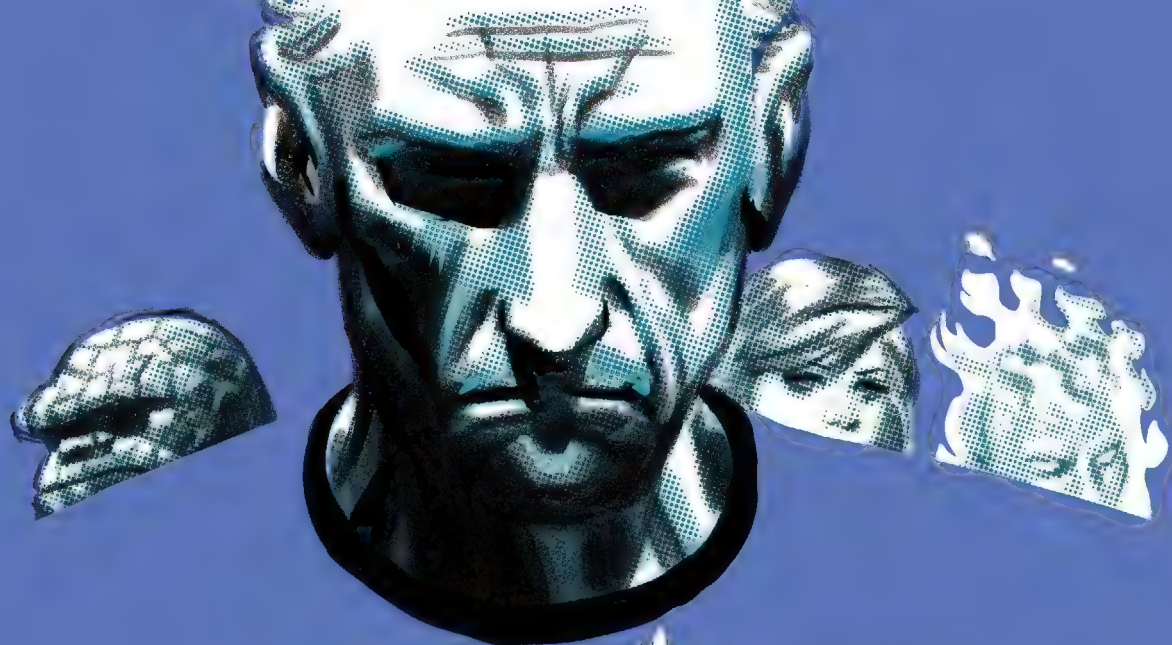






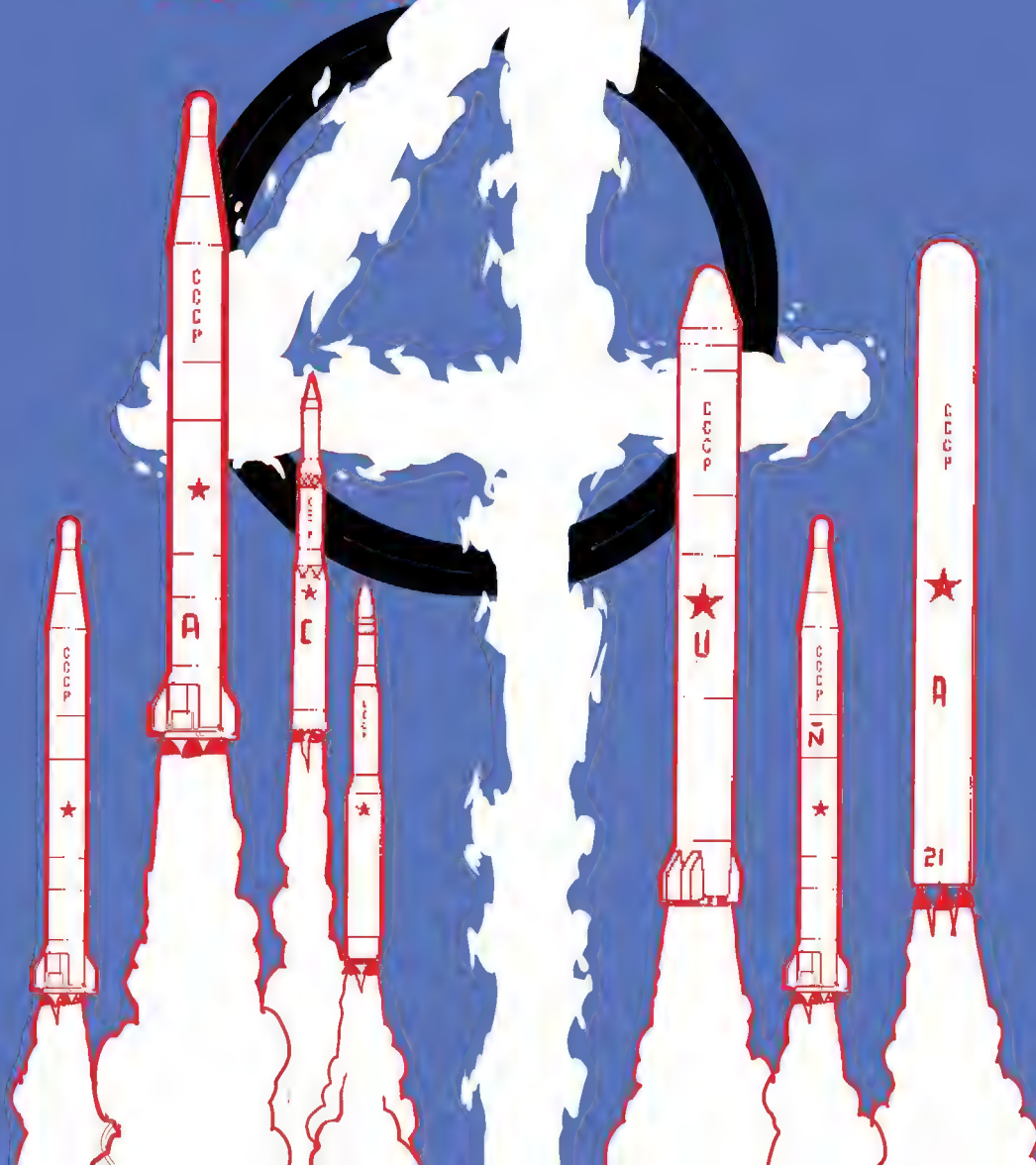






# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story* 3 The '80s





1984.



MR. PRESIDENT,  
I AM HERE  
BECAUSE I BELIEVE  
THAT THE BEST WAY  
FOR AMERICA TO LEAD  
THE WORLD IS BY  
PROTECTING IT.



GALACTUS  
IS COMING.  
BUT WITH YOUR  
HELP, WE CAN  
BE READY.

I HAVE BEEN  
WORKING WITH  
**STARK INDUSTRIES**  
ON A SPACE-BASED  
DEFENSE NETWORK WITH  
WHICH TO DEFEND  
THE ENTIRE  
PLANET.

IT'S CALLED  
THE **STRATEGIC  
DEFENSE  
INITIATIVE**.



AND WITH  
AMERICAN FUNDING,  
DR. RICHARDS AND  
I BELIEVE WE COULD  
HAVE IT UP AND  
RUNNING WITHIN  
FIVE YEARS.



I LIKE IT.

WHAT,  
AH, WHAT DO  
YOU THINK,  
EDWARD?



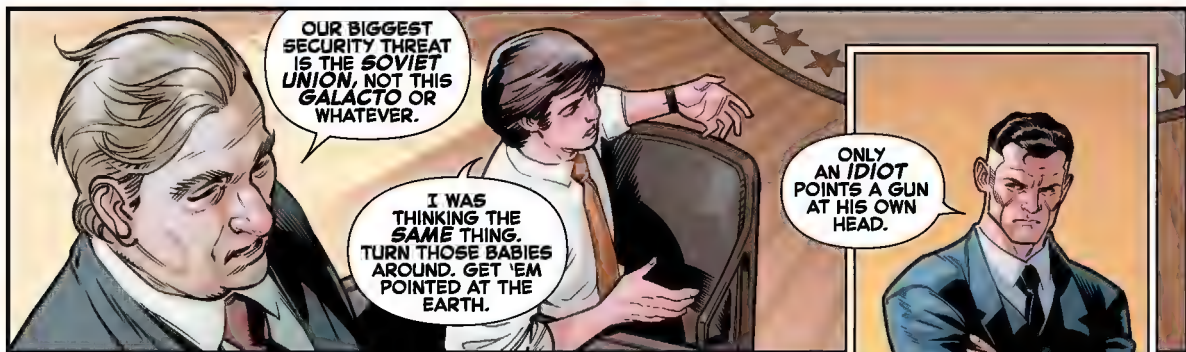
WE COULD  
THROW SOME  
**RESEARCH  
DOLLARS** AT IT.  
MAYBE ADD SOME  
**PARTICLE  
BEAMS.**

ONE  
QUESTION,  
THOUGH...



ISN'T IT  
POINTING IN  
THE **WRONG  
DIRECTION?**

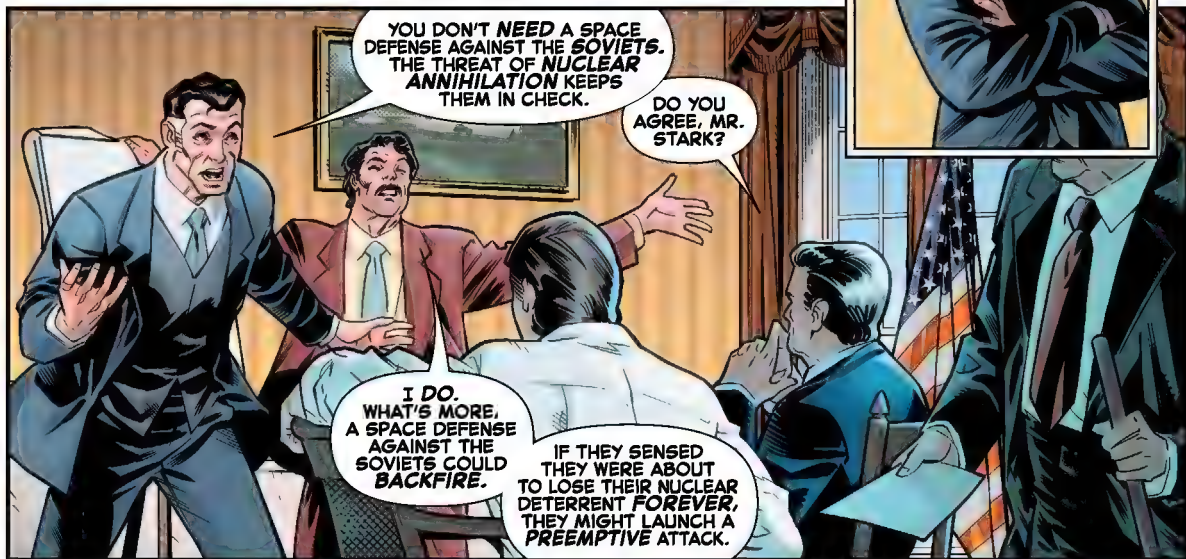




OUR BIGGEST SECURITY THREAT IS THE SOVIET UNION, NOT THIS GALACTO OR WHATEVER.

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING. TURN THOSE BABIES AROUND. GET 'EM POINTED AT THE EARTH.

ONLY AN IDIOT POINTS A GUN AT HIS OWN HEAD.



YOU DON'T NEED A SPACE DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOVIETS. THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION KEEPS THEM IN CHECK.

DO YOU AGREE, MR. STARK?

I DO. WHAT'S MORE, A SPACE DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOVIETS COULD BACKFIRE.

IF THEY SENSED THEY WERE ABOUT TO LOSE THEIR NUCLEAR DETERRENT FOREVER, THEY MIGHT LAUNCH A PREEMPTIVE ATTACK.



SOVIET AGGRESSION IN AN ELECTION YEAR?

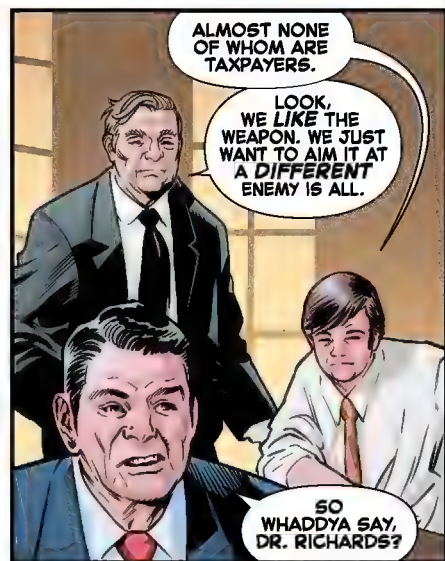
PINCH ME, I'M DREAMING!

I DON'T KNOW...



...COULD YOU GIVE IT A CATCHIER NAME?

PLEASE... SIR... GALACTUS IS COMING. THIS IS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.

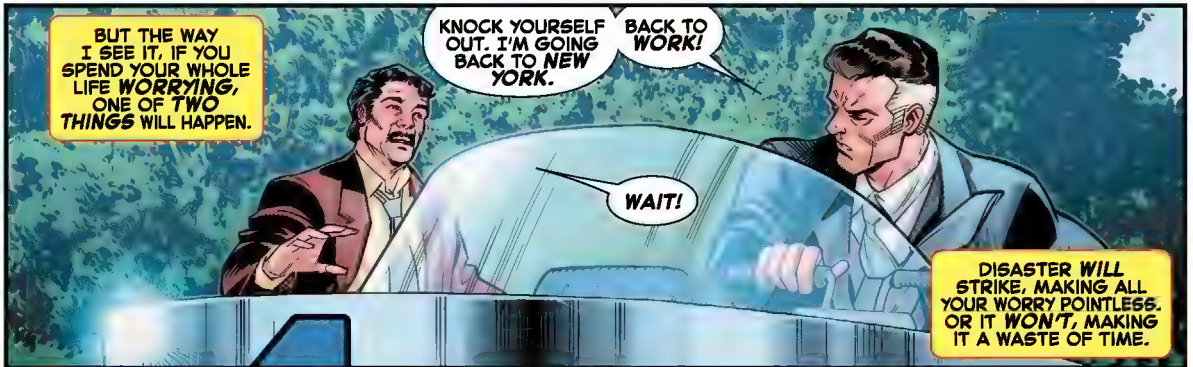
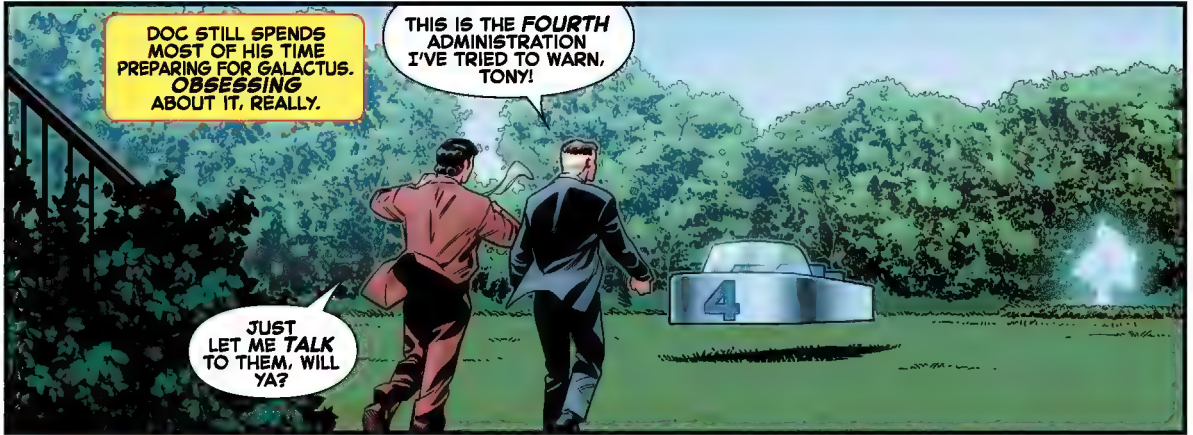


ALMOST NONE OF WHOM ARE TAXPAYERS.

LOOK, WE LIKE THE WEAPON. WE JUST WANT TO AIM IT AT A DIFFERENT ENEMY IS ALL.

SO WHADDYA SAY, DR. RICHARDS?









PEOPLE ALWAYS TELL YOU TO GROW UP. LIKE THAT'S A GOOD THING.

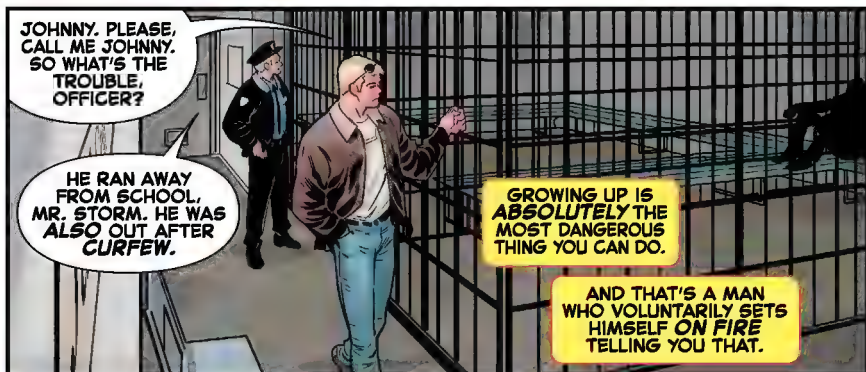
CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MR. STORM?

WELL, IT VIOLATES MY POLICY OF NEVER SIGNING ANYTHING A COP GIVES ME...



...BUT SURE, WHY NOT?

THANK YOU, MR. STORM!

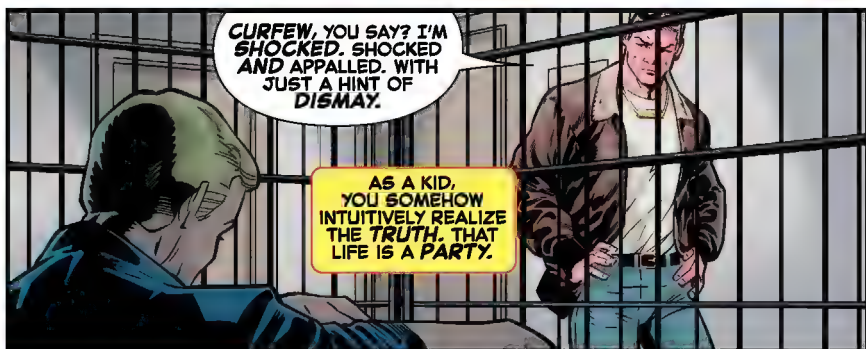


JOHNNY, PLEASE, CALL ME JOHNNY. SO WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, OFFICER?

HE RAN AWAY FROM SCHOOL, MR. STORM. HE WAS ALSO OUT AFTER CURFEW.

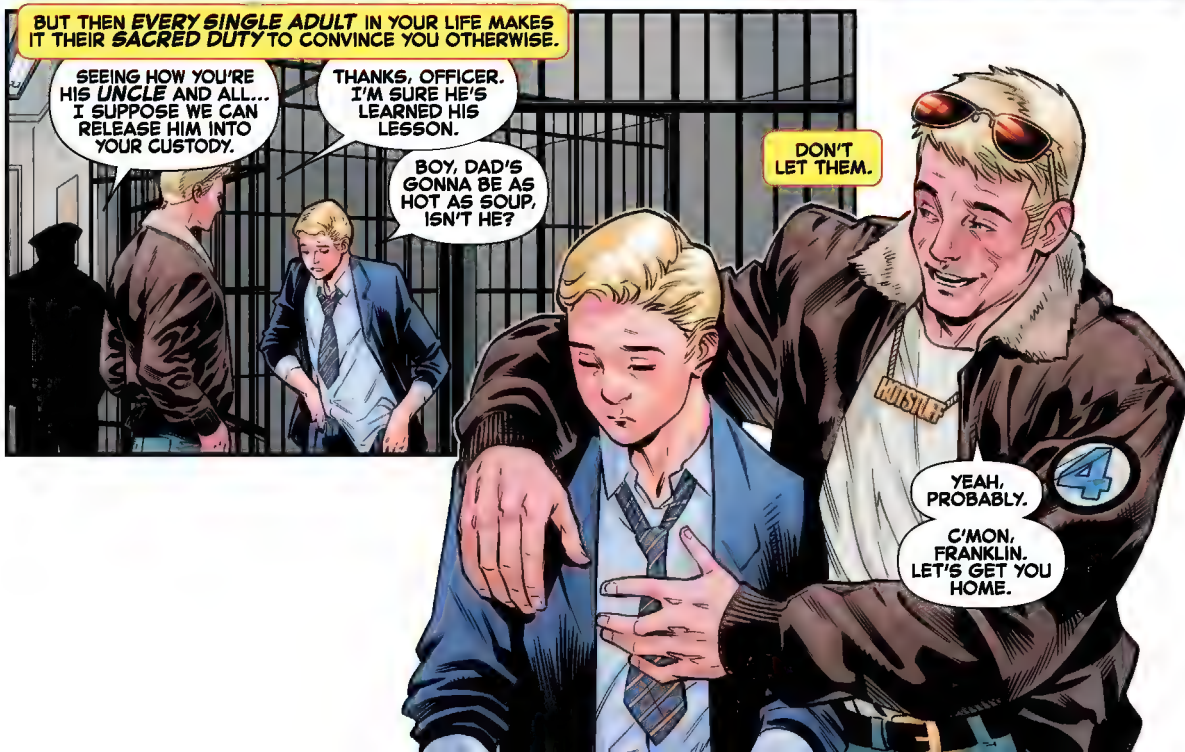
GROWING UP IS ABSOLUTELY THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU CAN DO.

AND THAT'S A MAN WHO VOLUNTARILY SETS HIMSELF ON FIRE TELLING YOU THAT.



CURFEW, YOU SAY? I'M SHOCKED. SHOCKED AND APPALLED, WITH JUST A HINT OF DISMAY.

AS A KID, YOU SOMEHOW INTUITIVELY REALIZE THE TRUTH. THAT LIFE IS A PARTY.



BUT THEN EVERY SINGLE ADULT IN YOUR LIFE MAKES IT THEIR SACRED DUTY TO CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE.

SEEING HOW YOU'RE HIS UNCLE AND ALL... I SUPPOSE WE CAN RELEASE HIM INTO YOUR CUSTODY.

THANKS, OFFICER. I'M SURE HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON.

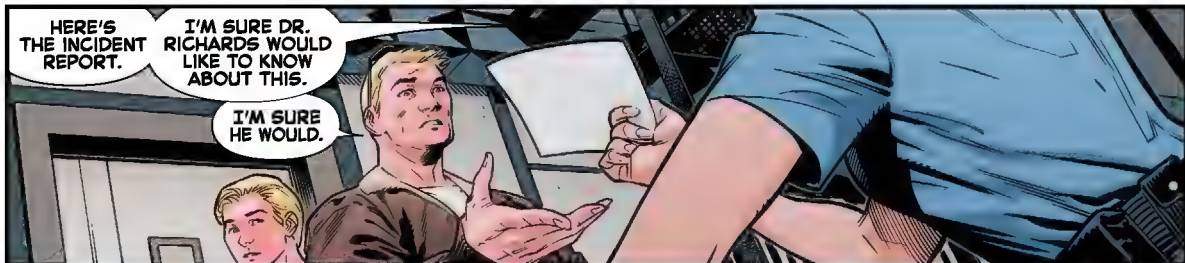
BOY, DAD'S GONNA BE AS HOT AS SOUP, ISN'T HE?

DON'T LET THEM.

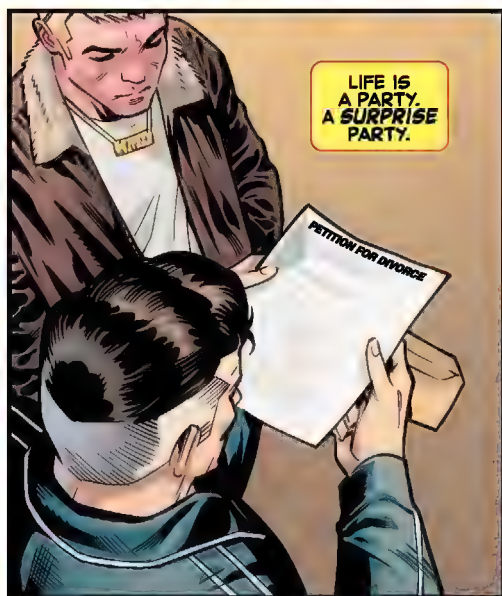
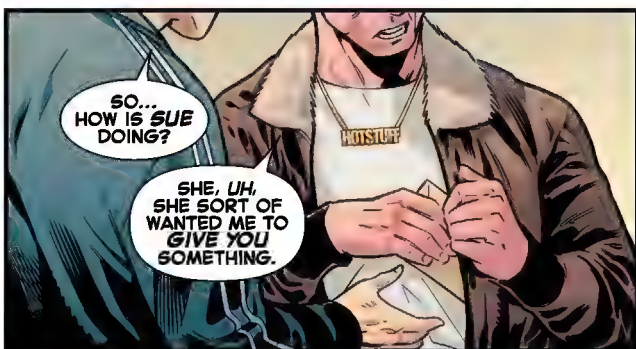
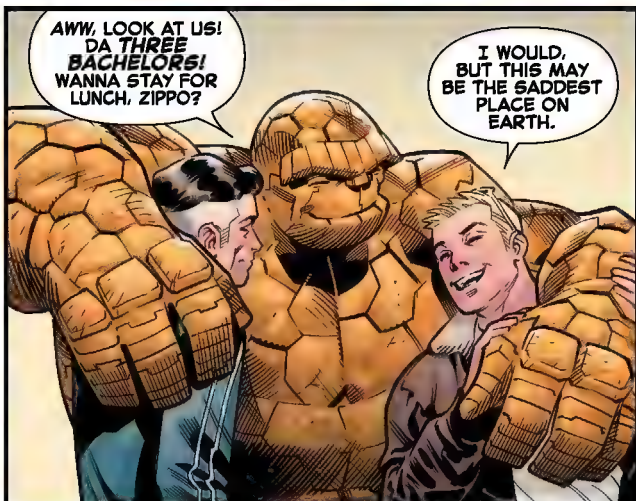
YEAH, PROBABLY.

C'MON, FRANKLIN. LET'S GET YOU HOME.

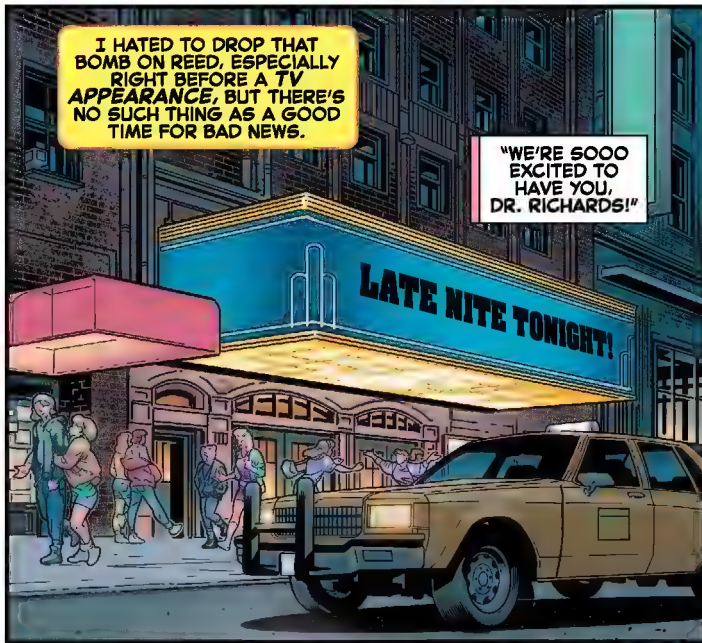














COMPUTERS DON'T EXIST JUST SO NERDS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO ON WEEKENDS. OUR LIVES LITERALLY DEPEND ON THEM.

WHAT A FOOL I WAS FOR TAKING HER FOR GRANTED. FOR IMAGINING SHE WAS MY REWARD.

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THIS, BUT A FEW MONTHS AGO, THE WORLD HAD A VERY CLOSE CALL.

"THE SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM MISIDENTIFIED SOME WEATHER SATELLITES AS AMERICAN MISSILES.

MISSILE DEFENSE PROTOCOL! SCRAMBLE!

**BREEEEEP  
BREEEEEP**

"LUCKILY, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE CHOSE TO IGNORE THE WARNING."

**BREEEEEP  
BREEEEEP**

SIR.  
SIR?

OTHERWISE, THIS THEATER WOULD BE A FINE RADIOACTIVE POWDER. BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY THE SOVIET SYSTEM GAVE A FALSE ALARM IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHY?

CRUMMY COMPUTERS.

AS A SPECIES, WE'RE SMART ENOUGH TO DESTROY OURSELVES AND DUMB ENOUGH TO DO IT.

AND WE WILL, UNLESS WE CREATE AN EVEN GREATER INTELLIGENCE TO SAVE US FROM OURSELVES.

WHAT ELSE HAVE I BEEN WRONG ABOUT?

THAT'S WHY IMPROVING COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IS LITERALLY A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH.



TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF DOCTOR DOOM'S ATTACK ON THE UNITED NATIONS, THEY INVITED US TO SPEAK ON "SAVING THE WORLD."

SAVING THE WORLD IS PRETTY UNCONTROVERSIAL, AS CAUSES GO. MOST PEOPLE SEEM ON BOARD WITH THAT.

AND EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR OWN OPINION ON WHAT WE SHOULD BE SAVING IT FROM.

JOHNNY!

HEY, SUE.

ONCE WE DISCOVERED THAT DOCTOR DOOM WAS, IN FACT, THE CROWN PRINCE OF LATVERIA, IT MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE HIM.

HOW DID REED TAKE-- YOU KNOW--THE PAPERWORK?

LIKE A BOY BEING SLAPPED BY SANTA CLAUS.

LATVERIA IS A ROGUE STATE, A HERMIT KINGDOM, WITH SECRET AGENTS EVERYWHERE.

SO WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO INCARCERATE HIM RIGHT HERE, IN THIS VERY BUILDING.

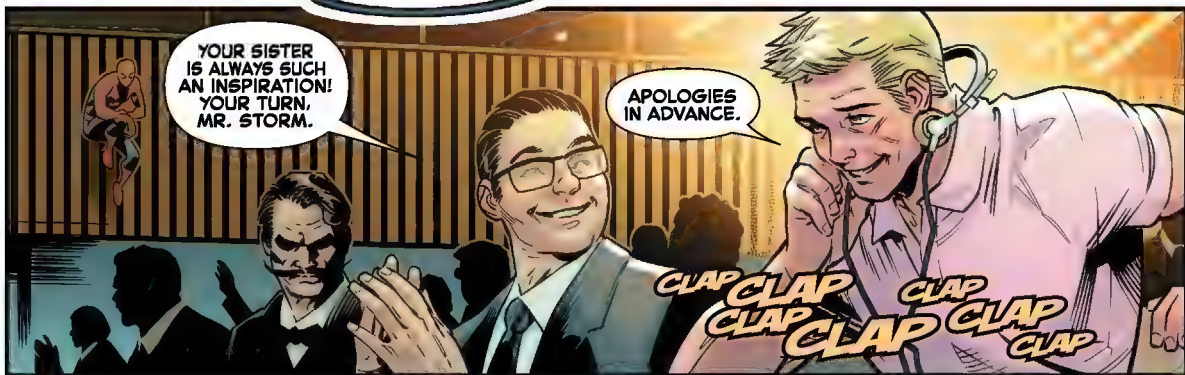
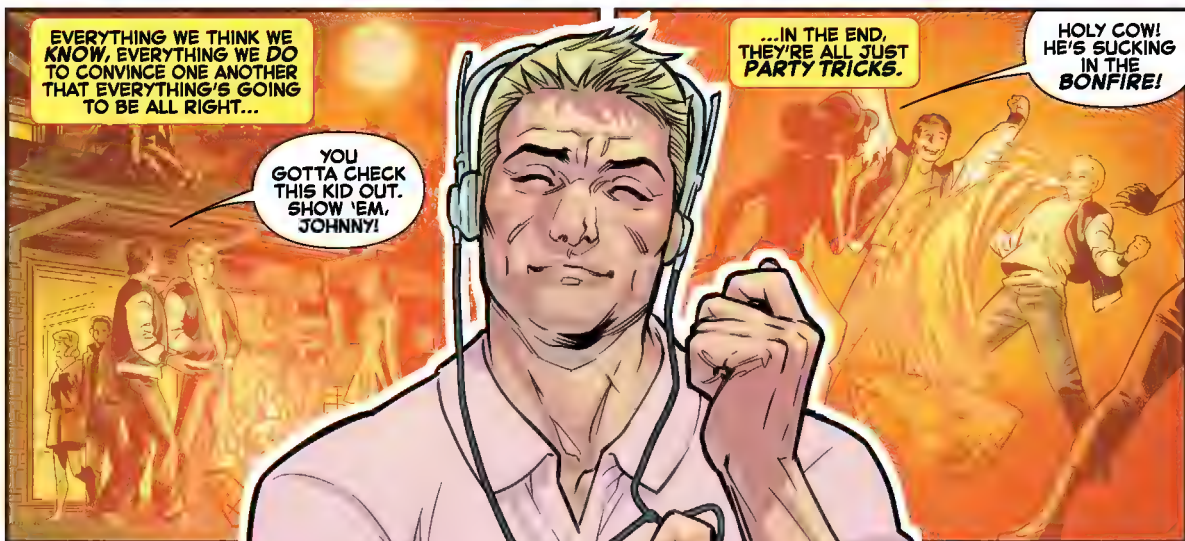
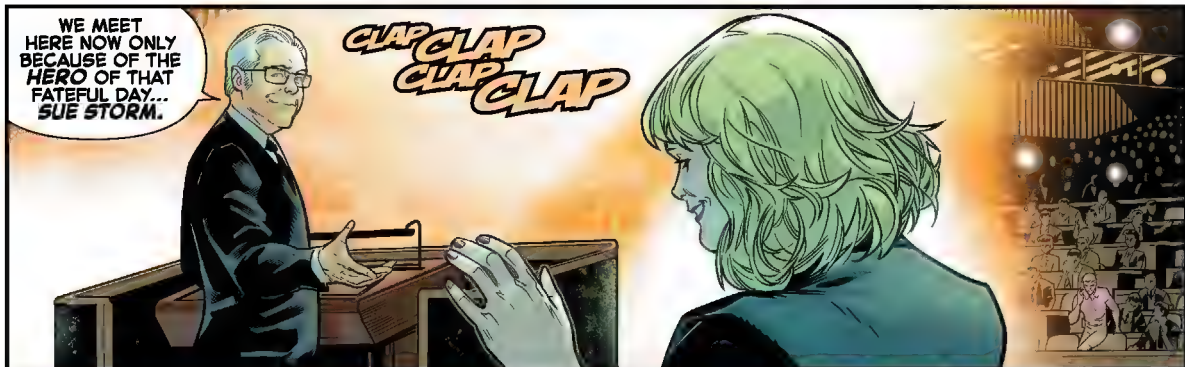
YOU! URUGUAY! COME HERE! I COMMAND YOU!

BUT ONE QUESTION PEOPLE NEVER SEEM TO ASK--

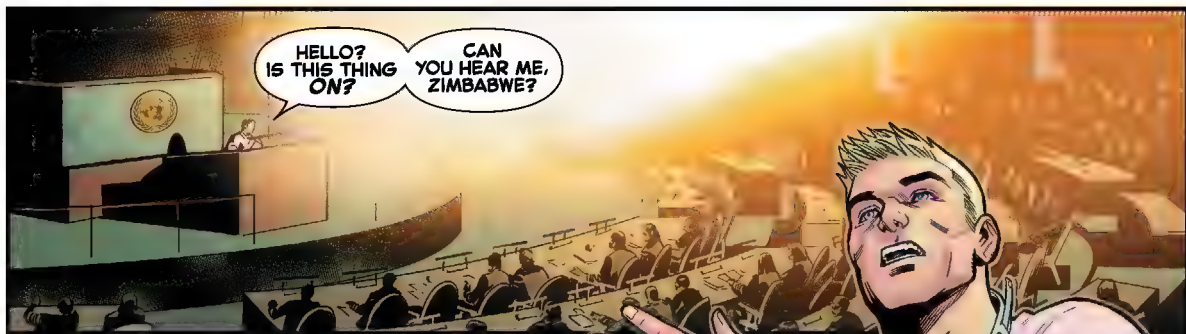
--IS WHAT ARE WE SAVING THE WORLD FOR?

THIS WAY. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS WAITING!



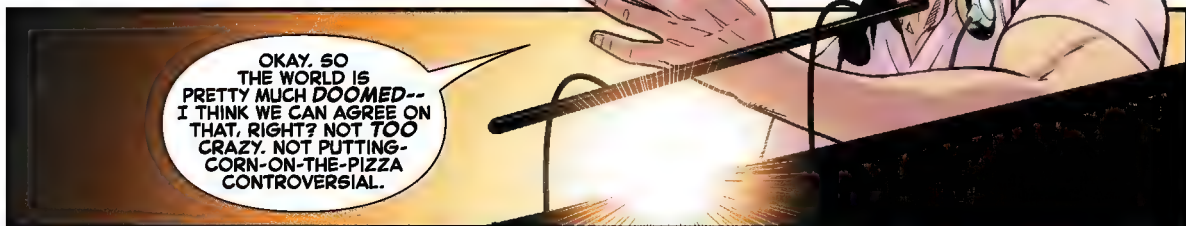




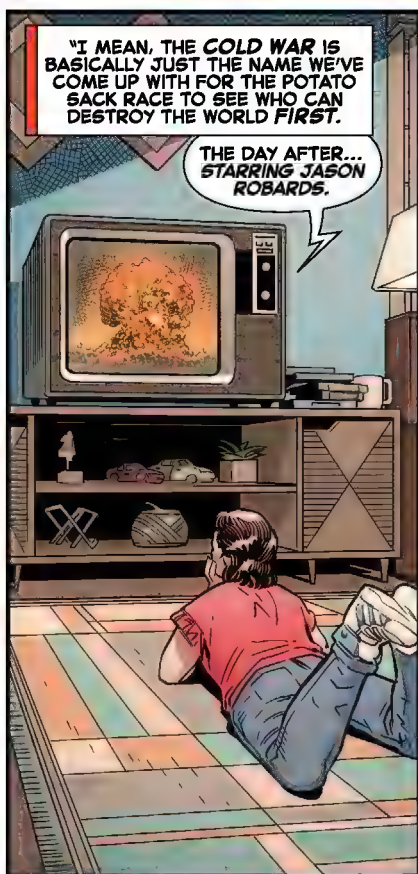


HELLO?  
IS THIS THING  
ON?

CAN  
YOU HEAR ME,  
ZIMBABWE?



OKAY. SO  
THE WORLD IS  
PRETTY MUCH DOOMED--  
I THINK WE CAN AGREE ON  
THAT, RIGHT? NOT TOO  
CRAZY. NOT PUTTING-  
CORN-ON-THI-PIZZA  
CONTROVERSIAL.



"I MEAN, THE COLD WAR IS  
BASICALLY JUST THE NAME WE'VE  
COME UP WITH FOR THE POTATO  
SACK RACE TO SEE WHO CAN  
DESTROY THE WORLD FIRST.

THE DAY AFTER...  
STARRING JASON  
ROBARDS.

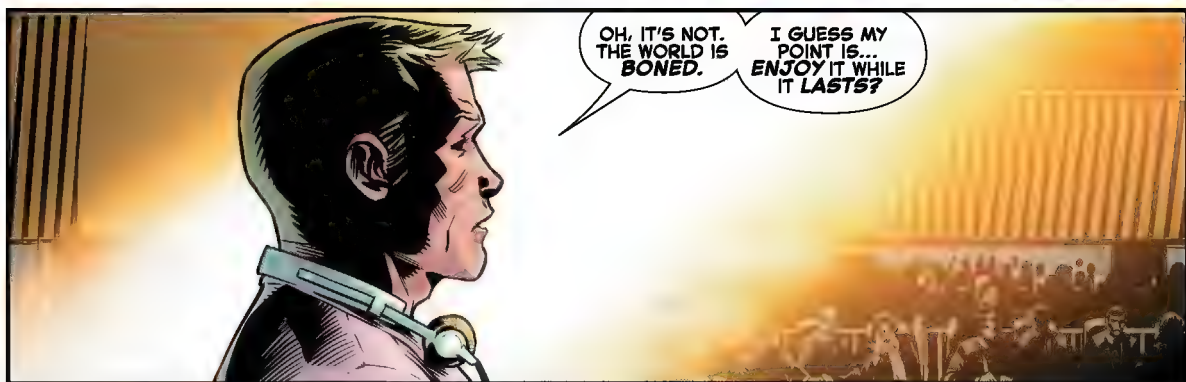


"AND IF WE MANAGE  
TO SURVIVE THAT...  
GALACTUS WILL  
PROBABLY GET US."



OR, IF NOT,  
WE'LL SIMPLY  
DROWN IN OUR OWN  
SMOG, SEWAGE  
AND POTATO  
CHIP BAGS.

EXCUSE ME,  
BUT HOW  
IS THIS ABOUT  
SAVING THE  
WORLD?



OH, IT'S NOT.  
THE WORLD IS  
BONED.

I GUESS MY  
POINT IS...  
ENJOY IT WHILE  
IT LASTS?



I KNEW THE LOOK ON THEIR FACES. I'D SEEN IT MANY TIMES BEFORE. IT WAS THE LOOK THAT SAID, "WHY DON'T YOU JUST **GROW UP?**"

CAN'T BELIEVE I'M COMING UP ON FORTY. HOW ARE YOU TAKING IT?

WELL....ADULT CONTEMPORARY MUSIC IS STARTING TO MAKE SENSE TO ME.

YOU SIMPLY CAN'T BUILD A MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM WITHOUT THE LATEST COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.

YOU SHOULD TALK TO THE PRESIDENT.



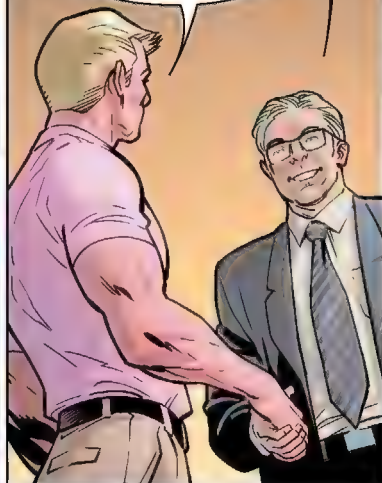
76% OF OUR PLANET IS WATER. ALGAE PRODUCES MOST OF THE OXYGEN YOU BREATHE. SO IF YOU'RE AT ALL INTERESTED IN SAVING YOURSELVES... I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE START THERE?

OR BY UNLOCKING THE PROBLEM-SOLVING POTENTIAL OF THAT MAJORITY OF THE HUMAN POPULATION CALLED **WOMEN?**

INTERESTING SPEECH, MR. STORM.

ONE RARELY MEETS A **CHEERFUL** CYNIC.

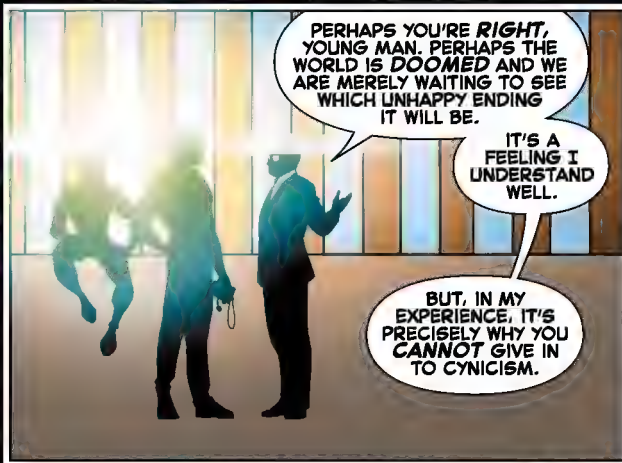
WELL, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MAKE THE MISTAKE OF GIVING ME A MICROPHONE.



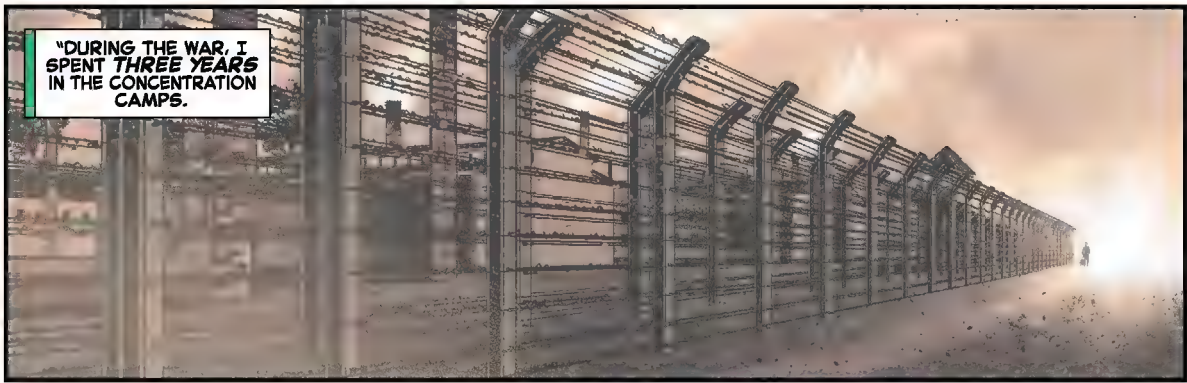
PERHAPS YOU'RE **RIGHT**, YOUNG MAN. PERHAPS THE WORLD IS **DOOMED** AND WE ARE MERELY WAITING TO SEE WHICH UNHAPPY ENDING IT WILL BE.

IT'S A FEELING I UNDERSTAND WELL.

BUT, IN MY EXPERIENCE, IT'S PRECISELY WHY YOU CANNOT GIVE IN TO CYNICISM.





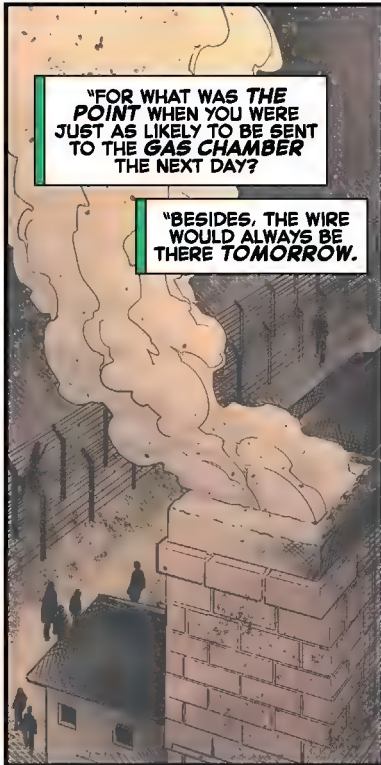


"DURING THE WAR, I SPENT **THREE YEARS** IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.



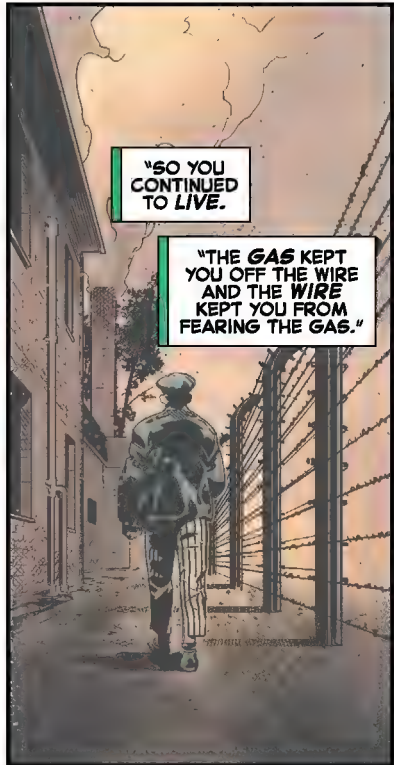
"THE MOMENT I ARRIVED, I CONSIDERED DIVING ONTO THE ELECTRIFIED BARBED WIRE. GETTING IT OVER WITH. MOST NEW PRISONERS CONSIDERED DOING THAT.

"THOUGH FEW WENT THROUGH WITH IT.



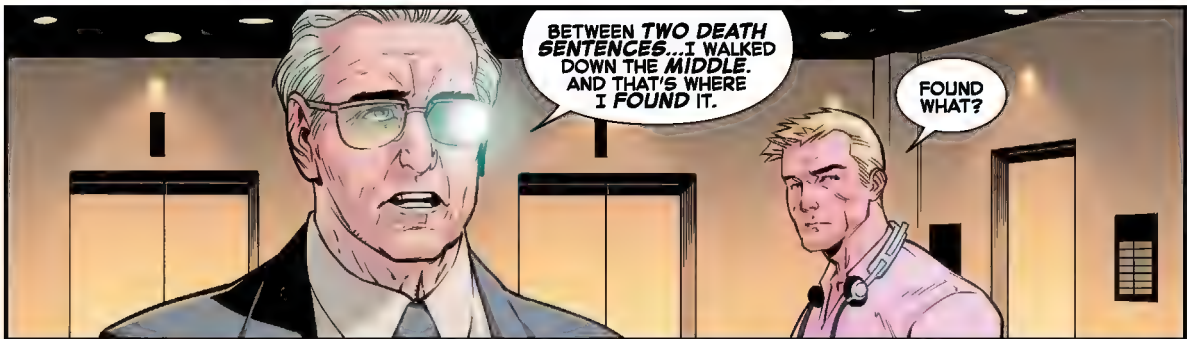
"FOR WHAT WAS **THE POINT** WHEN YOU WERE JUST AS LIKELY TO BE SENT TO THE **GAS CHAMBER** THE NEXT DAY?

"BESIDES, THE WIRE WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE **TOMORROW**.



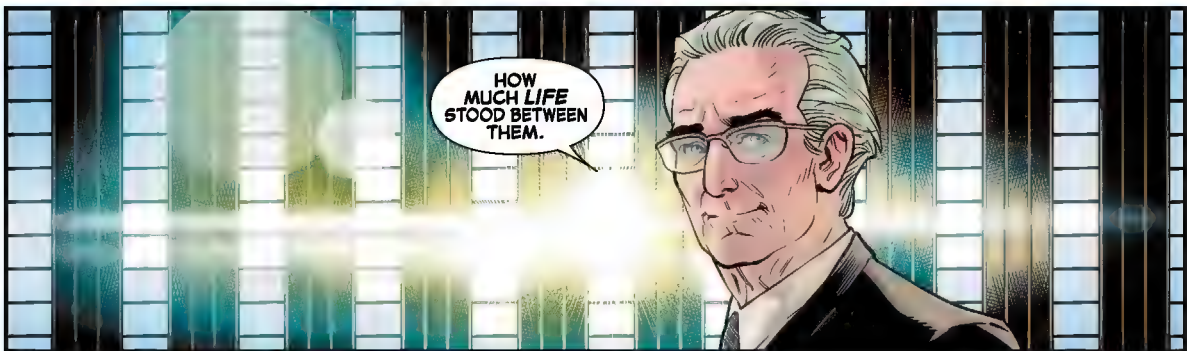
"SO YOU CONTINUED TO LIVE.

"THE **GAS** KEPT YOU OFF THE WIRE AND THE **WIRE** KEPT YOU FROM FEARING THE **GAS**."



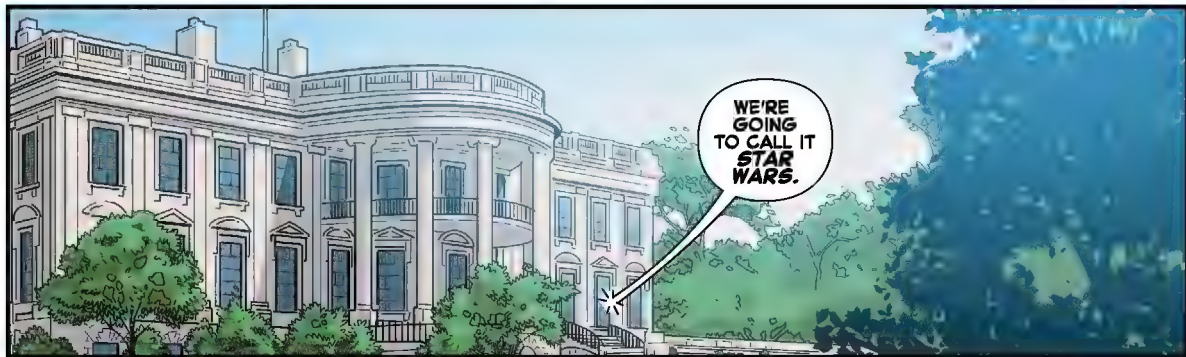
BETWEEN TWO DEATH SENTENCES...I WALKED DOWN THE MIDDLE. AND THAT'S WHERE I FOUND IT.

FOUND WHAT?



HOW MUCH LIFE STOOD BETWEEN THEM.









...AND THEN CALLING YOUR BOMBERS BACK AT THE LAST POSSIBLE SECOND.

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, LET'S TURN IT AROUND.

ALL TO PUT THE SOVIETS BACK ON THEIR HEELS. TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN CONTROL.



BUT IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU GET A SOVIET RADAR OFFICER WHO'S GOT TERMINAL CANCER OR WHOSE WIFE JUST LEFT HIM OR WHO SIMPLY FLIPS THE COIN TAILS UP. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL SET OFF A CHAIN OF EVENTS BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.

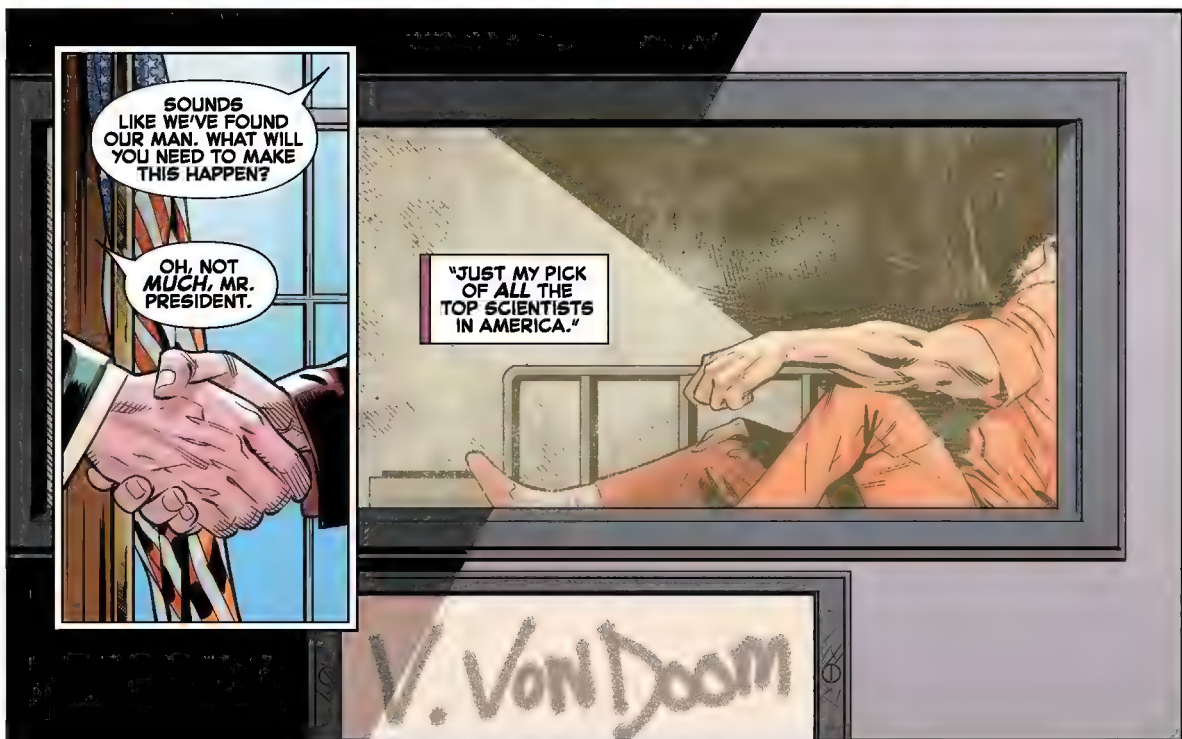
SEE Y'ALL NEXT WEEK.

IN THE MEANTIME, HOW LONG ARE YOU WILLING TO WALK IN THE RAIN WITHOUT AN UMBRELLA?

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, DR. SANTINI?



LET ME TAKE OVER THE STAR WARS PROGRAM. WITH MY COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, I'LL GET IT WORKING WITHIN TWO YEARS.



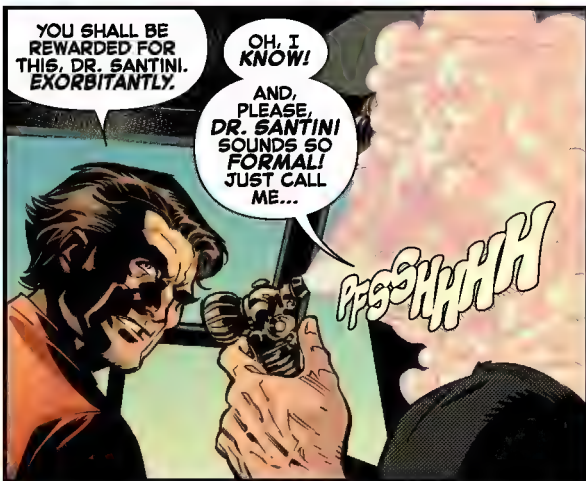
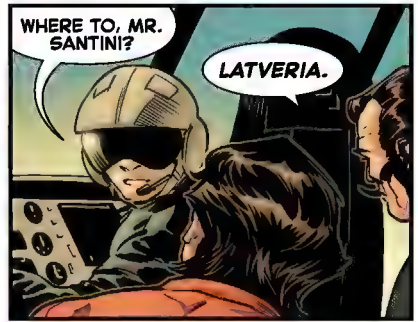
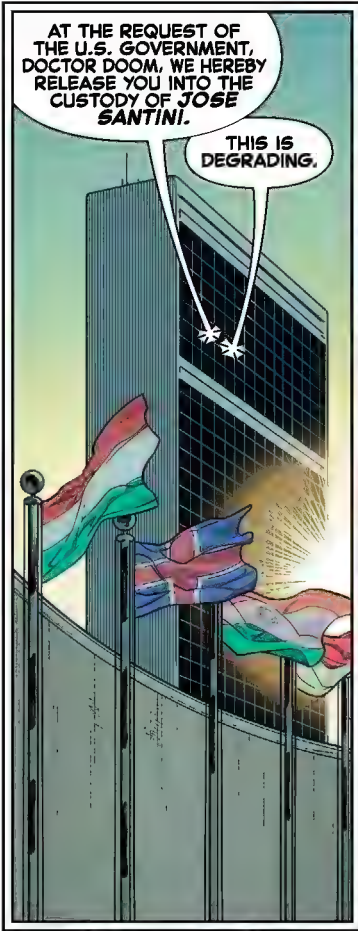
SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE FOUND OUR MAN. WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

OH, NOT MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT.

"JUST MY PICK OF ALL THE TOP SCIENTISTS IN AMERICA."

V. Von Doom







REAGAN CRUISED TO A SECOND TERM, IN PART BECAUSE OF REED'S WACKY STAR WARS IDEA.

NOT THAT REED NOTICED. HE'S BURIED HIMSELF IN THAT LAB OF HIS.

NOW HE'S PREOCCUPIED WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. CONVINCED THAT'S HOW HE'S GOING TO DEFEAT GALACTUS.

WHAT SECRETS ARE YOU HIDING IN THERE?

BUT I THINK HE'S SIMPLY LOOKING FOR A TOMB LARGE ENOUGH FOR HIS OWN EGO.

IT'S JOHNNY STORM!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS PRETTY MUCH OVER, LIKE A BAND THAT HASN'T BROKEN UP BUT EVERYONE IS MAKING SOLO ALBUMS.

THE FLEETWOOD MAC OF SUPER HERO TEAMS.

I MISS THE CAMARADERIE. THE ACTION.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN A TRAGEDY THAT BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER, BUT WITH TIME...

...THE TRAGEDY FADES AND WHAT YOU'RE LEFT WITH ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU SURVIVE IT.



**1986.  
LATVERIA.**

AND HOW  
DO YOU LIKE  
YOUR REWARD,  
MY FRIEND?



NOT AS *SPACIOUS*  
AS MY PLACE IN  
CUPERTINO, BUT  
IT'LL DO.

THE VIEW IS  
*BREATH-taking*.

BUT WHY INSIST THAT  
WE BUILD IT LIKE A *BUNKER*?  
THAT WE BUILD IT *into* THE  
MOUNTAIN? WHY NOT A CASTLE  
THAT *COMMANDS* THE  
MOUNTAINS, AS  
MINE DOES?

A CASTLE  
IS JUST A LITTLE  
TOO *EXPOSED*  
FOR WHAT  
COMES NEXT.

TO WHAT DO  
YOU REFER?

OH,  
COME NOW.  
DON'T BE  
NAIVE.

"YOU WERE *RIGHT*  
ABOUT DR. RICHARDS.  
HE ISN'T WILLING TO DO  
WHAT IT *TAKES* TO  
SAVE THE WORLD.

"BUT THEN...  
NEITHER ARE  
*YOU.*"

ONLY AS  
*ONE POWERFUL*  
*FIST* CAN THE  
EARTH DEFEAT  
*GALACTUS!*



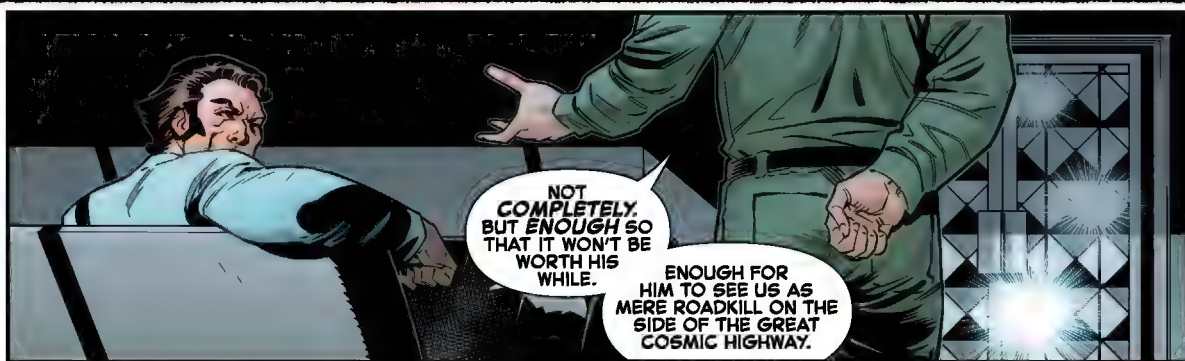


I'VE RUN **QUADRILLIONS** OF COMPUTER SIMULATIONS OF THE COMING BATTLE WITH GALACTUS. IN ONLY .001% OF THEM DO WE **SURVIVE**. AND **THOSE** ONLY BECAUSE GALACTUS GETS LOST OR SOMEHOW **LOSES HIS MIND**.

IN THE END, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP GALACTUS FROM DESTROYING THE EARTH.

HOW?

BY DESTROYING IT OURSELVES.



NOT **COMPLETELY**. BUT **ENOUGH** SO THAT IT WON'T BE WORTH HIS WHILE.

ENOUGH FOR HIM TO SEE US AS MERE ROADKILL ON THE SIDE OF THE GREAT COSMIC HIGHWAY.



ONCE GALACTUS LEAVES, THE SURVIVORS CAN COME OUT OF THEIR EXPENSIVE MOUNTAIN BUNKERS AND REBUILD.

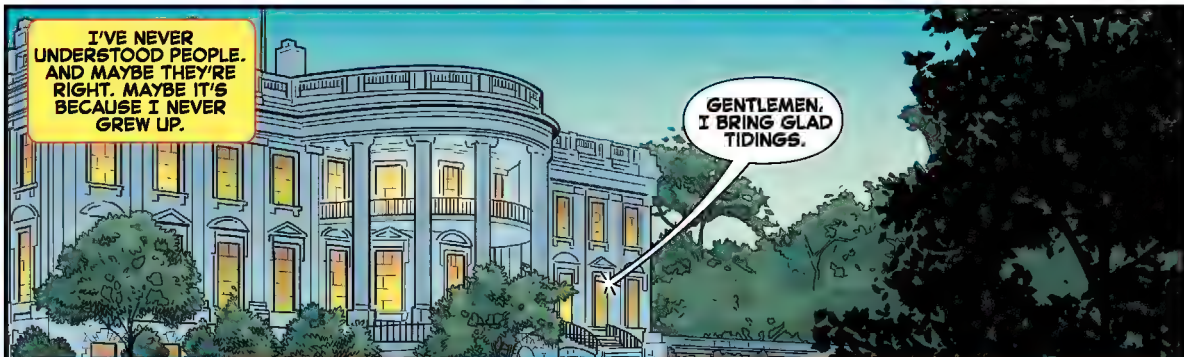
YOU'RE MAD.

WELL, YES. IT'S IN THE NAME.

**SANITY** IS WHAT WE CALL THE DISEASE OF ONLY BEING ABLE TO THINK IN SMALL **IDEAS**. TO DEAL WITH NORMAL SITUATIONS. IF WE WISH TO **SURVIVE**...

...THEN ONLY **MADNESS** CAN SAVE US.





I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD PEOPLE. AND MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I NEVER GREW UP.

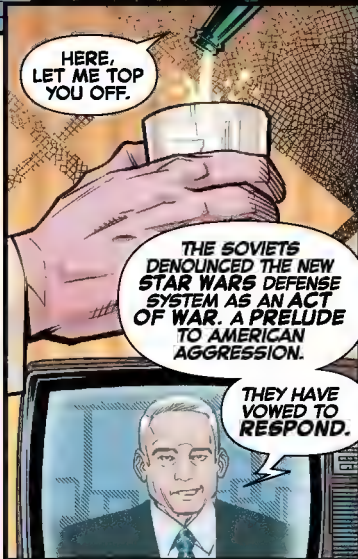
GENTLEMEN, I BRING GLAD TIDINGS.

BUT WHY WOULD YOU GAMBLE **EVERYTHING** ON A BET THAT, EVEN IF YOU WIN, DOESN'T PAY YOU ANYTHING THAT YOU DIDN'T ALREADY HAVE?

YOUR STAR WARS MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM IS OPERATIONAL.

WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN.

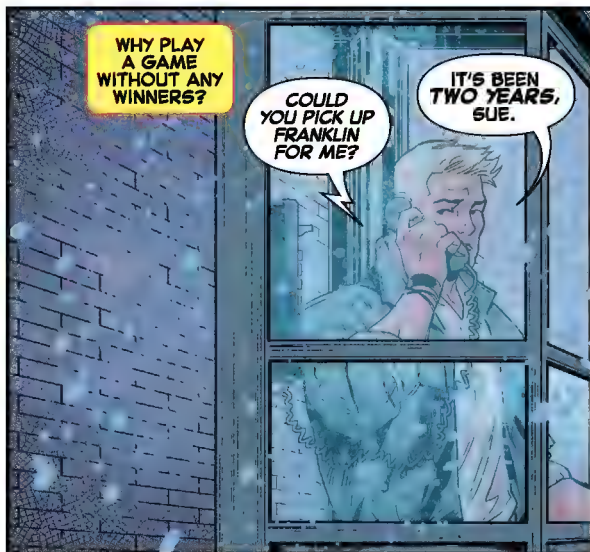
WHAT'S THE POINT OF A CONFLICT CREATED SOLELY BY OUR FEAR OF THE CONFLICT?



HERE, LET ME TOP YOU OFF.

THE SOVIETS DENOUNCED THE NEW STAR WARS DEFENSE SYSTEM AS AN ACT OF WAR. A PRELUDE TO AMERICAN AGGRESSION.

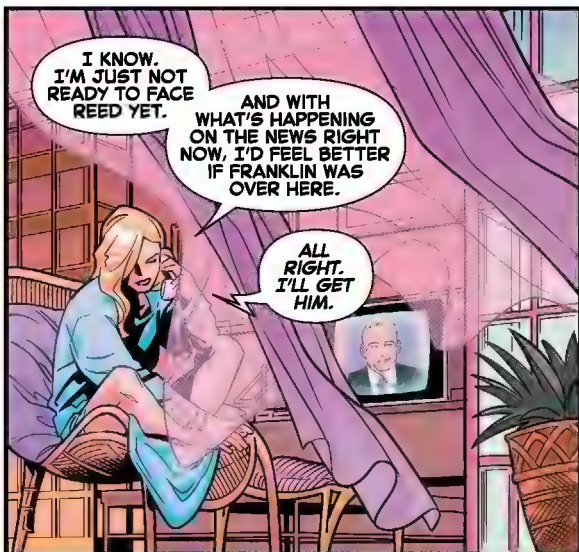
THEY HAVE VOWED TO RESPOND.



WHY PLAY A GAME WITHOUT ANY WINNERS?

COULD YOU PICK UP FRANKLIN FOR ME?

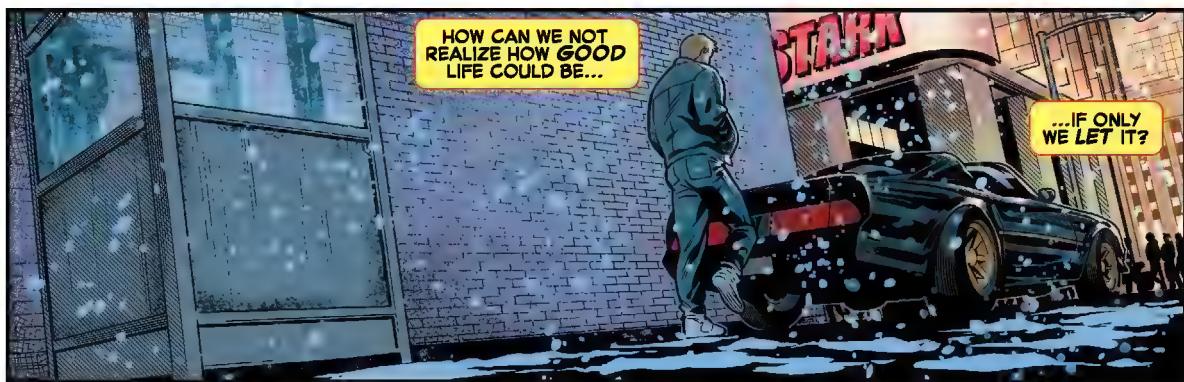
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS, SUE.



I KNOW. I'M JUST NOT READY TO FACE REED YET.

AND WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE NEWS RIGHT NOW, I'D FEEL BETTER IF FRANKLIN WAS OVER HERE.

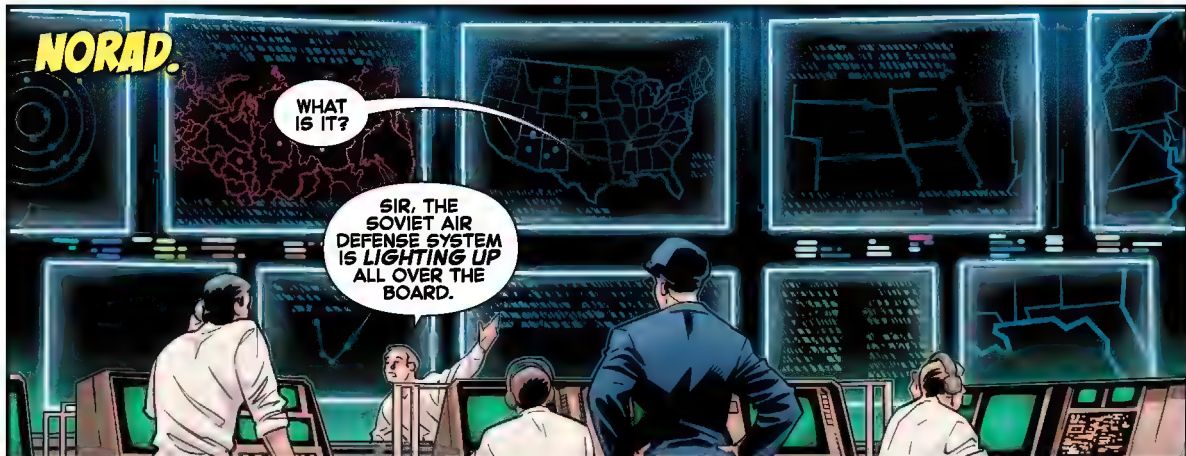
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GET HIM.



HOW CAN WE NOT REALIZE HOW GOOD LIFE COULD BE...

...IF ONLY WE LET IT?





**NORAD.**

WHAT IS IT?

SIR, THE SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM IS LIGHTING UP ALL OVER THE BOARD.



**U.S.S.R.**

WHY ARE YOU TAKING THIS AGGRESSIVE POSTURE?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR COMPUTERS ARE TELLING YOU, WE HAVEN'T LAUNCHED ANY--

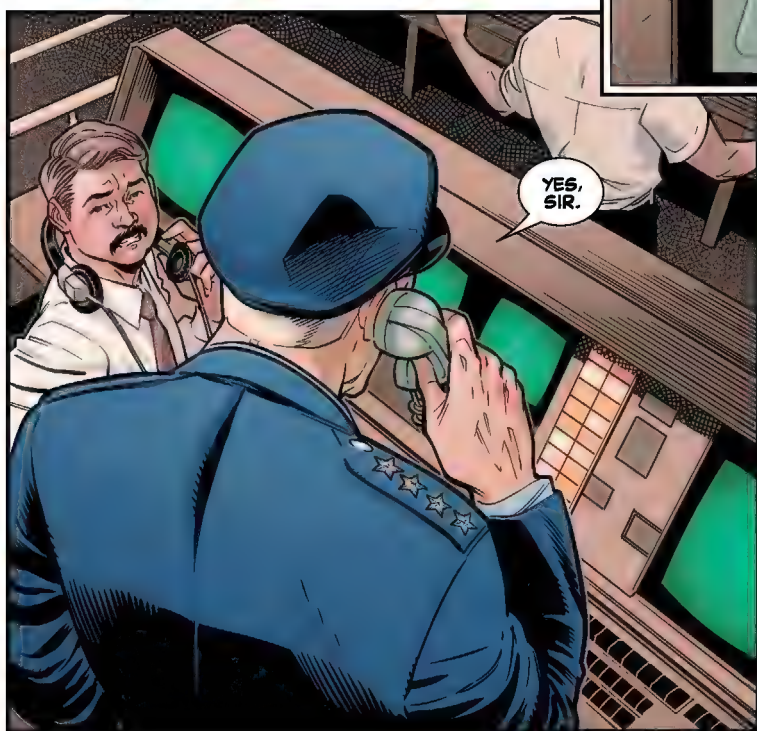
MR. SECRETARY, THE AMERICANS ARE MOBILIZING.



ARE YOU SURE IT'S A SOVIET ATTACK?

GET ME THE PRESIDENT.

YES, SIR. THE COMPUTER DATA IS CLEAR.



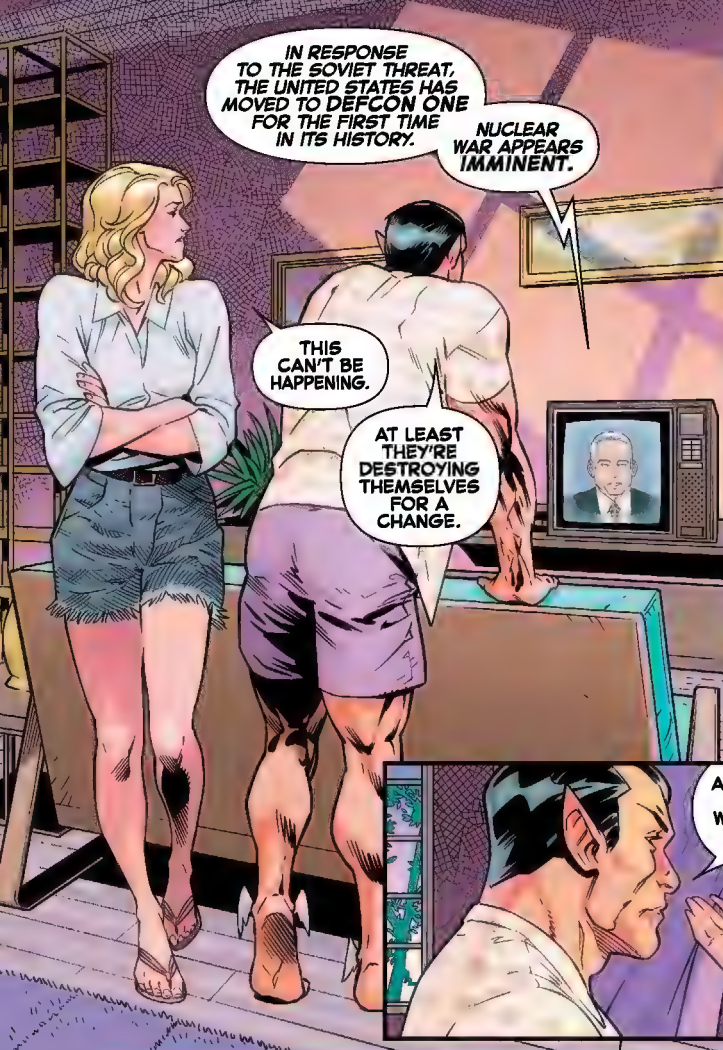
YES, SIR.



PREPARE LAUNCH PROTOCOLS.

FULL NUCLEAR RETALIATION.





IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET THREAT, THE UNITED STATES HAS MOVED TO DEFCON ONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY.

NUCLEAR WAR APPEARS IMMINENT.

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

AT LEAST THEY'RE DESTROYING THEMSELVES FOR A CHANGE.



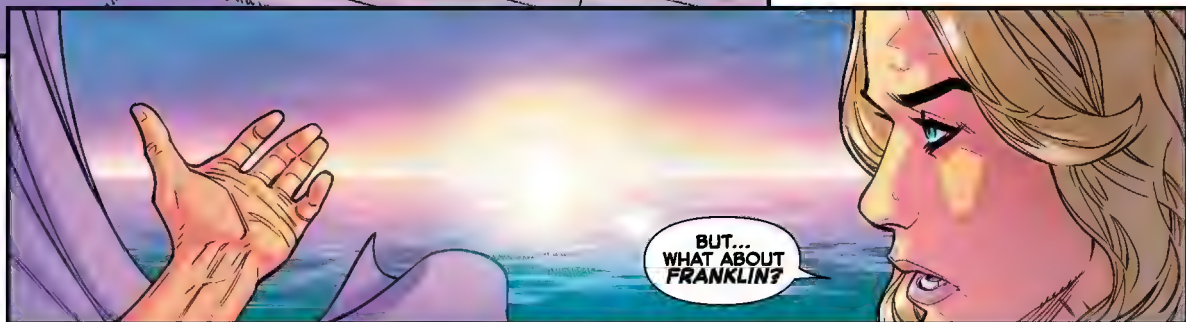
WE'VE GOT TO HELP!

IT'S TOO LATE.

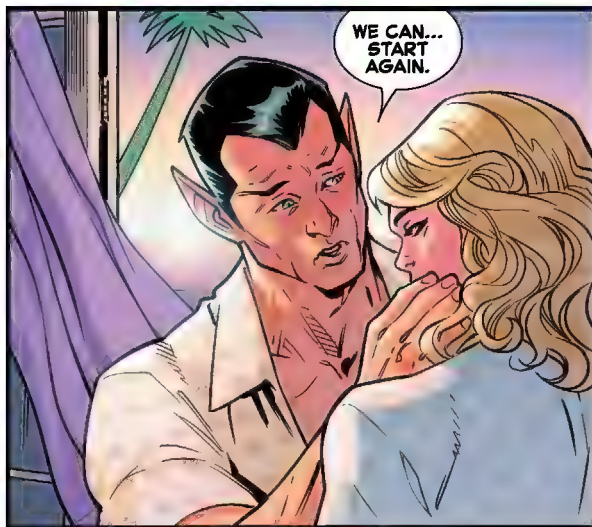


ANY MINUTE NOW, THE MISSILES WILL BE ON THEIR WAY. WE HAVE TO GO.

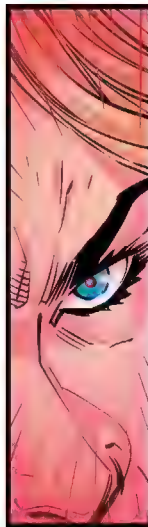
GO?! WHERE?



BUT... WHAT ABOUT FRANKLIN?



WE CAN... START AGAIN.



SUE!

SUE?



WE SPEND OUR WHOLE LIVES TRYING TO BE ON TIME FOR SURPRISES.

GET IN, BRYLCREEM! I'M DRIVIN'!

**WWHIRRR**

AND THEN WONDER WHY WE'RE ALWAYS LATE.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FLYIN' A LITTLE LIGHT.

JUST THE THREE OF US, I'M AFRAID.

WE REFUSE TO LIVE UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

FRANKLIN!

MOM!

AND THEN WONDER WHERE ALL THE TIME WENT.

WHERE'S YOUR FATHER?

ON THE ROOF.

BUT TIME DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE.

SUE?

AND, SADLY, NEITHER DID WE.

HOLD ON TO YER CURLERS!

I'VE GOT YOU.

**WRRROOOO**





THE GOOD THING ABOUT ENDINGS, ABOUT REALIZING YOU'RE OUT OF TIME, IS THAT AT THAT MOMENT, THERE'S NO DENYING WHAT'S IMPORTANT.



THOSE COMMIES OWE ME A VODKA!

FROOO



HISH-DA



GOT IT!  
NOW TO JUST REEL IT IN GENTLY AND--





ALL RIGHT!  
WE GOT  
THE WHOLE  
BOWLING  
TEAM.

LET'S  
MAKE IT  
COUNT.

THAT, IN THE END,  
ALL WE HAVE IS  
EACH OTHER.

AND THAT YOUR  
FAMILY IS WHOEVER  
STANDS BY YOU  
TILL THE END.



AWW  
GEEZ!  
SORRY,  
FISH!



BOOM  
KABOOM

DID NONE  
OF YOU EVER  
PLAY MISSILE  
COMMAND?

THIS  
WOULD BE  
A LOT EASIER  
IF WE JUST  
PROTECTED THE  
TARGETS.

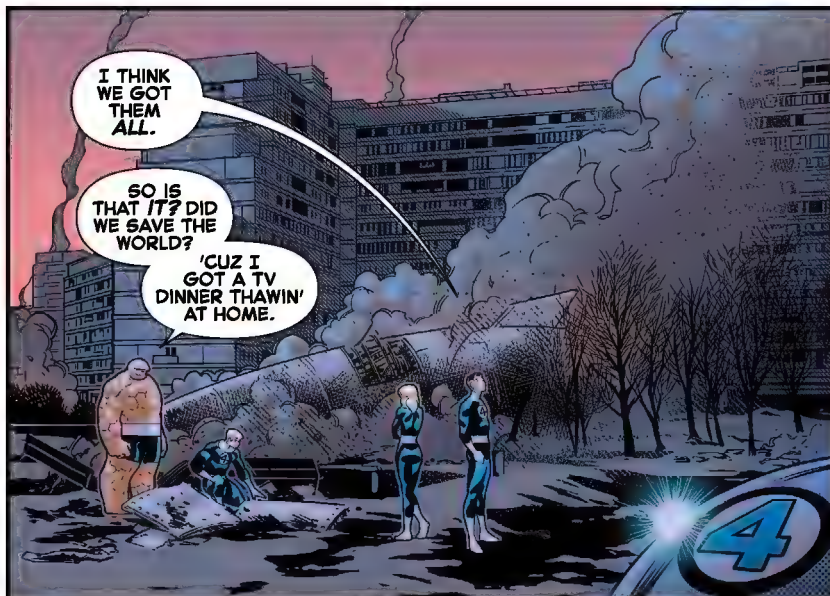


INCOMING  
MISSILES  
DETECTED.

SIR, NO  
RESPONSE  
FROM THE KREMLIN.  
WHAT IS YOUR  
DECISION?

SIR?





I THINK  
WE GOT  
THEM  
ALL.

SO IS  
THAT IT? DID  
WE SAVE THE  
WORLD?

'CUZ I  
GOT A TV  
DINNER THAWIN'  
AT HOME.

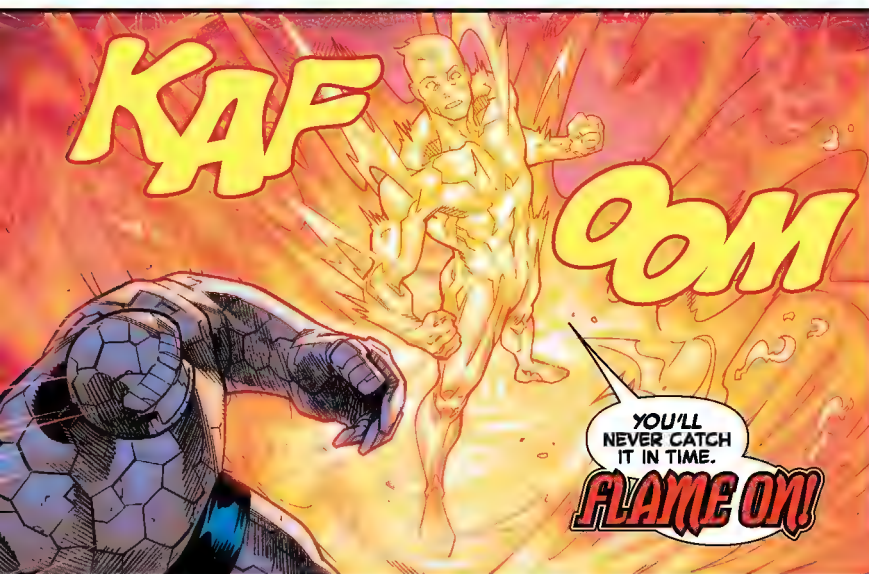


OH NO!

AWWW,  
CRAP IN  
A HAT!

IT'S TOO  
LATE. WE'LL  
NEVER CATCH  
IT IN TIME.

CORRECTION...



KAF

QOM

YOU'LL  
NEVER CATCH  
IT IN TIME.

FLAME ON!



JOHNNY,  
WAIT!



CAN'T FOLLOW  
IT INTO THE  
STRATOSPHERE.  
NOT ENOUGH  
OXYGEN FOR  
ME THERE.



BUT I HAVE A  
PRETTY GOOD  
IDEA OF WHERE  
IT'S HEADING.



EVERYTHING WE THINK WE KNOW...EVERYTHING WE THINK WE CAN DO...IT'S ALL JUST PARTY TRICKS.

BUT, FROM TIME TO TIME, A GOOD PARTY TRICK CAN COME IN HANDY.

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

I WAS STUPID FOR TAKING THIS ALL FOR GRANTED.

MAYBE MATURITY IS MOSTLY JUST REALIZING WHAT A JERK YOU'VE BEEN.

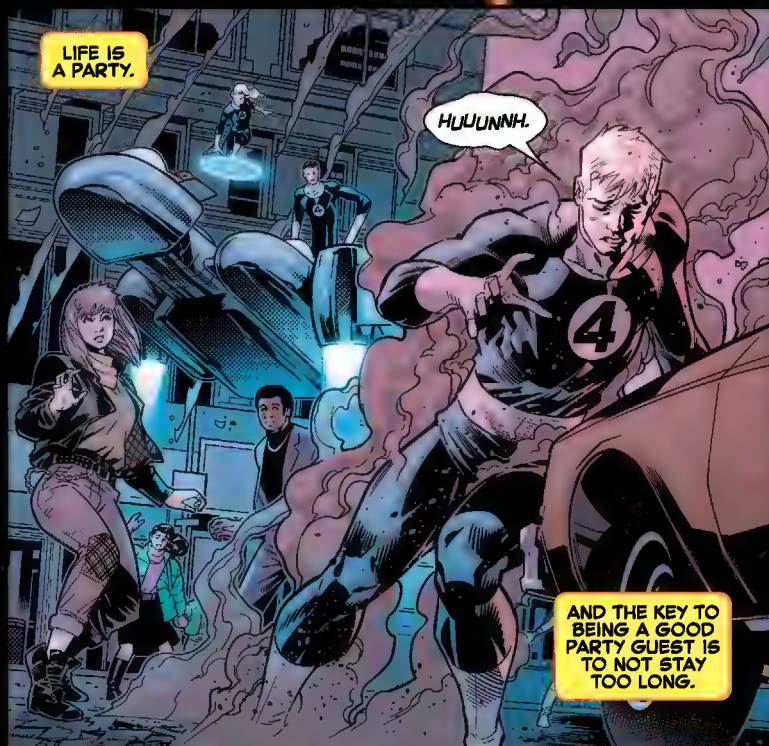
AND GROWING UP IS JUST ADMITTING THAT SOMETHING MATTERS TO YOU.

MAYBE, DESPITE MY BEST EFFORTS, I HAVE GROWN UP.

WHICH, I ASSURE YOU, IS THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU WILL EVER DO.







LIFE IS  
A PARTY.

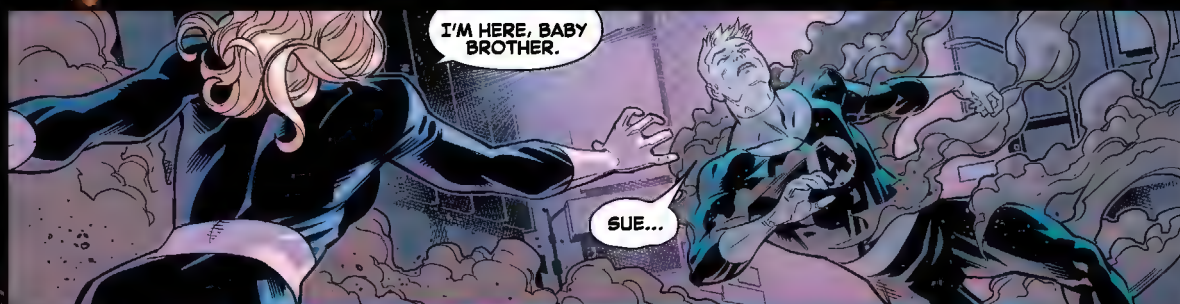
HUUUNH.

AND THE KEY TO  
BEING A GOOD  
PARTY GUEST IS  
TO NOT STAY  
TOO LONG.

NO ONE WANTS YOU  
HANGING AROUND  
WHILE THEY'RE  
WASHING THE DISHES.

I CAN'T  
SEE. I--

ZIPPO!



I'M HERE, BABY  
BROTHER.

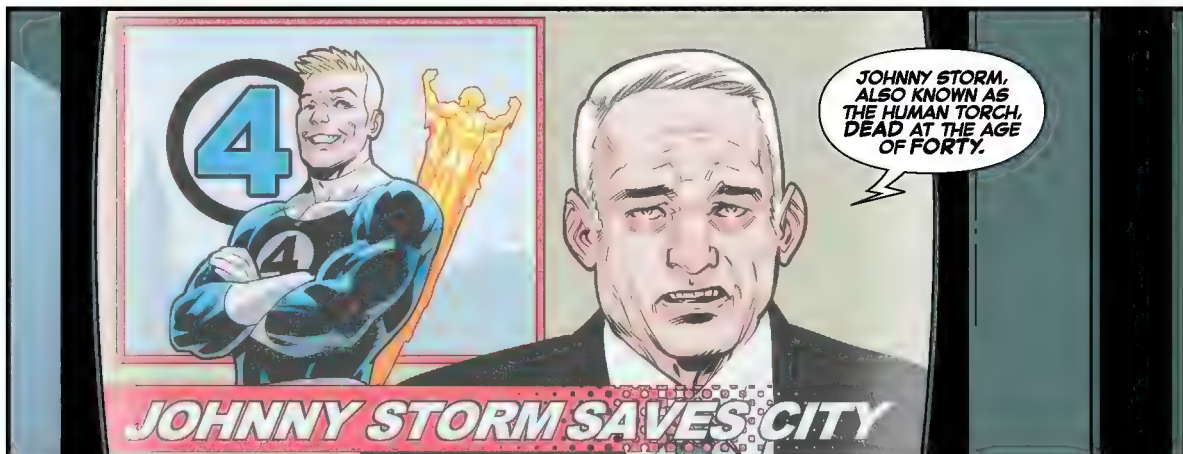
SUE...

IT'S BETTER TO BE THE  
GUY WHO LEAVES AFTER  
AN HOUR OR TWO...WHILE  
HE'S STILL INTERESTING.

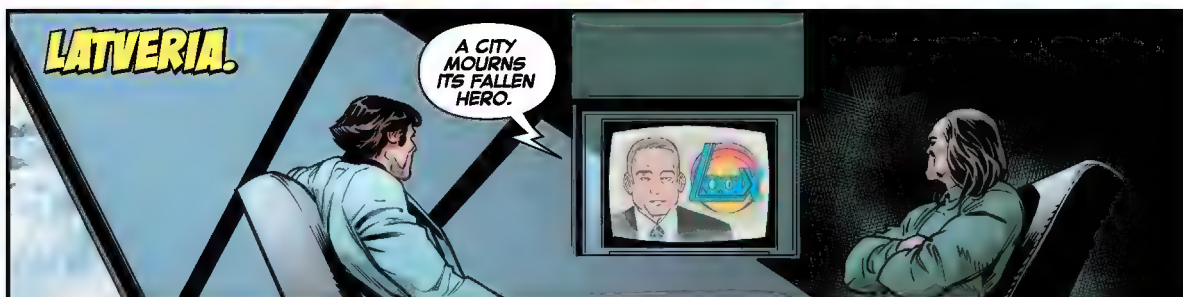
I'VE  
GOT  
YOU.

THE  
GUY WHO  
LEAVES...





JOHNNY STORM,  
ALSO KNOWN AS  
THE HUMAN TORCH,  
DEAD AT THE AGE  
OF FORTY.





IF I HAVE  
TO **DIE** SOMEDAY,  
WHICH I IMAGINE  
I WILL...

**1989.**

I MISS  
YOU, UNCLE  
JOHNNY.

MAY YOU WHO  
ARE THE SOURCE  
OF MERCY SHELTER  
'EM BENEATH YER WINGS  
ETERNALLY AND BIND  
THEIR SOULS AMONG  
THE LIVIN'...

...I HOPE PEOPLE  
WON'T THINK  
THAT I STAYED  
TOO LONG.

THE  
WORLD'S JUST  
**TOO QUIET**  
WITHOUT YOU,  
JOHNNY.



THAT I LEFT WHILE I WAS  
STILL **INTERESTING**. WHILE  
PEOPLE WERE STILL ASKING...  
WHO **WAS** THAT GUY?

GO EASY,  
ZIPPO.



WE DIDN'T  
ALWAYS GET  
ALONG, BUT...

...I'M SORRY,  
JOHNNY. I'M  
SO SORRY.

BUT EVEN IF  
YOU LEAVE THE  
PARTY UNNOTICED,  
THAT'S O.KAY.



**Johnny Storm**  
The Human Torch  
1946 - 1986

*Brother, Uncle, Hero, Friend*

BECAUSE  
THE PARTY  
CARRIES ON  
WITHOUT US.



# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story* 4 The '90s





1994.

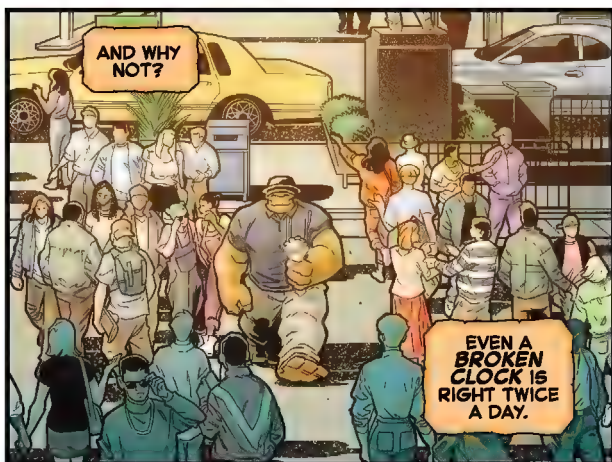
I LIKE THE  
'90s! EVERYBODY  
DRESSES LIKE A  
DOCK WORKER.



HELL, EVEN  
I'M BACK  
IN STYLE.



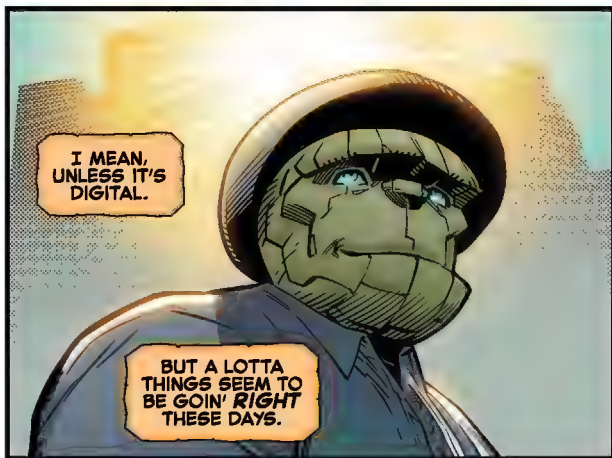
AND WHY  
NOT?



EVEN A  
BROKEN  
CLOCK IS  
RIGHT TWICE  
A DAY.

I MEAN,  
UNLESS IT'S  
DIGITAL.

BUT A LOTTA  
THINGS SEEM TO  
BE GOIN' RIGHT  
THESE DAYS.





TH' SOVIET UNION  
FOLDED LIKE A  
DISCO IN A NUNNERY.  
AFTER DAT, DOC GOT  
ALL THE FUNDIN'  
HE NEEDED.

DEFENSE  
PERIMETER  
IS 87%  
COMPLETE.

NOT BAD.  
WHEN GALACTUS  
ARRIVES, LOOKS LIKE  
WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE  
SURPRISE PARTY  
WAITING FOR  
HIM.

AND WITHOUT ALL THE DEMAND  
FOR MILITARY TECH, STARK  
FOUND SOMETHIN' **USEFUL**  
TO DO WITH ALL HIS TOYS.

THE  
HYDROGEN  
ENGINE WILL MAKE  
POWER CHEAP,  
CLEAN AND  
PLENTIFUL.

STRANGLING  
THE THREAT  
OF GLOBAL  
WARMING IN ITS  
INFANCY.

AWKWARD  
ANALOGY,  
BUT **COOL!**

FOR THE FIRST TIME I CAN REMEMBER,  
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE MORE INTERESTED IN  
PULLIN' EACH OTHER **OUTTA TH' WATER**  
THAN WATCHIN' EACH OTHER **DROWN.**

WAKANDA  
AND THE AFRICAN  
ALLIANCE HAVE  
CREATED A VACCINE  
FOR THE PLAGUE  
KNOWN AS  
**AIDS.**

WHICH WE  
NOW OFFER AS A  
**GIFT, FREE TO  
THE WORLD.**

IT'S AS IF THE HUMAN  
RACE WOKE UP ONE DAY  
AND DECIDED TO TAKE  
ITS OWN SURVIVAL  
**SERIOUSLY.**

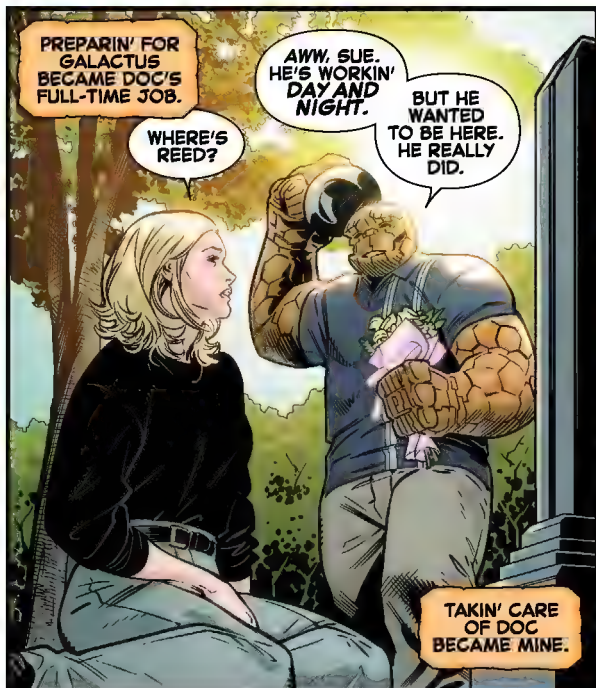
SUE BROKE UP WITH NAMOR  
YEARS AGO. GUESS SHE  
WANTED MORE OF A  
**LAND-BASED RELATIONSHIP.**

SO  
**EVERYONE'S  
HAPPY.  
I GUESS.**





MOST 'A  
THE TIME,  
ANYWAY.



PREPARIN' FOR  
GALACTUS  
BECAME DOC'S  
FULL-TIME JOB.

WHERE'S  
REED?

AWW, SUE.  
HE'S WORKIN'  
DAY AND  
NIGHT.

BUT HE  
WANTED  
TO BE HERE.  
HE REALLY  
DID.

TAKIN' CARE  
OF DOC  
BECAME MINE.



DOC AND I HAVE BEEN  
THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER  
OVER THE YEARS. AND MOST  
OF IT SUCKED EGGS.

BUT  
YOU KNOW  
HOW HE  
IS.

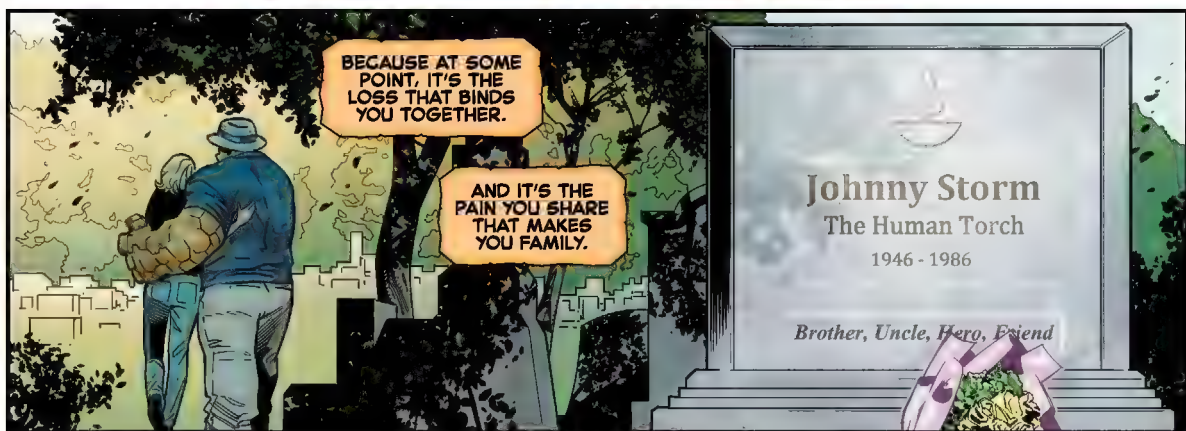
FOR A LONG TIME,  
I BLAMED HIM FOR  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO US. TO ME.



I REALLY  
MISS JOHNNY,  
YOU KNOW.

I KNOW.  
I MISS HIM  
TOO.

BUT NONE  
OF THAT  
MATTERS  
ANYMORE.



BECAUSE AT SOME  
POINT, IT'S THE  
LOSS THAT BINDS  
YOU TOGETHER.

AND IT'S THE  
PAIN YOU SHARE  
THAT MAKES  
YOU FAMILY.

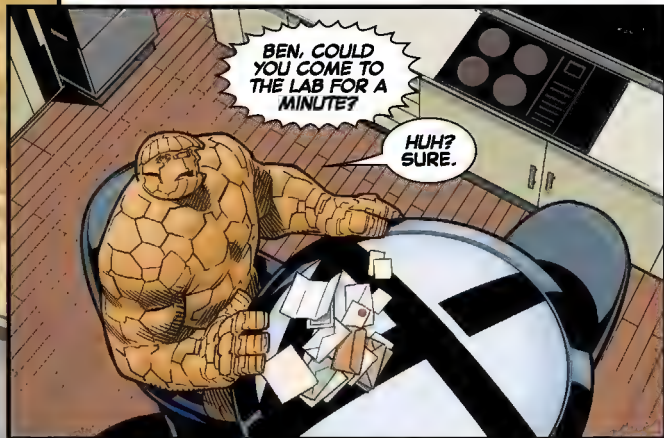
Johnny Storm  
The Human Torch  
1946 - 1986

Brother, Uncle, Hero, Friend





BILLS...  
BILLS...  
CATALOG...

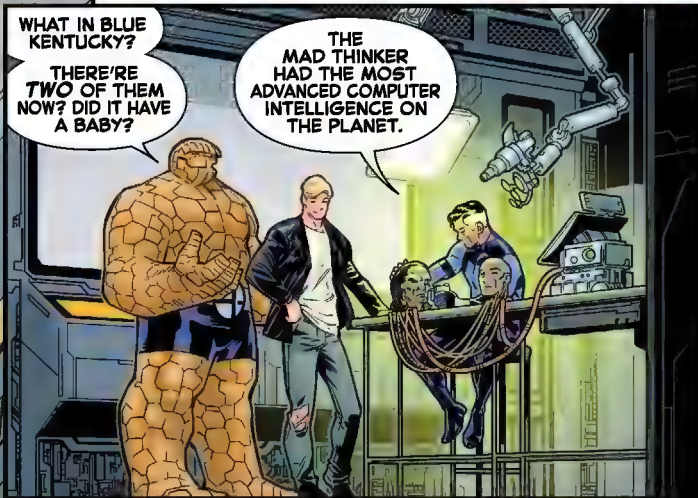


BEN, COULD  
YOU COME TO  
THE LAB FOR A  
MINUTE?

HUH?  
SURE.

WHAT IN BLUE  
KENTUCKY?  
  
THERE'RE  
TWO OF THEM  
NOW? DID IT HAVE  
A BABY?

THE  
MAD THINKER  
HAD THE MOST  
ADVANCED COMPUTER  
INTELLIGENCE ON  
THE PLANET.



BUT IT WAS TOO  
EMBEDDED WITH HIS  
OWN PERSONALITY  
TO BE TRUSTED.

SO I BUILT A  
CYBERNETIC  
BRAIN OF MY  
OWN.



IT'S  
JUST A BALD  
VERSION  
OF HIM.



ONCE WE UNLOCK ITS FULL POWER,  
IT WILL BE A GAME CHANGER. IT WILL RUN  
SIMULATIONS, CONSTRUCTING THE **BEST  
POSSIBLE STRATEGY** AGAINST  
GALACTUS. IN ESSENCE, IT WILL  
TAKE MY PLACE.

BUT  
THAT'S NOT  
WHY I CALLED  
YOU DOWN  
HERE.



FRANKLIN'S  
GETTING  
MARRIED!

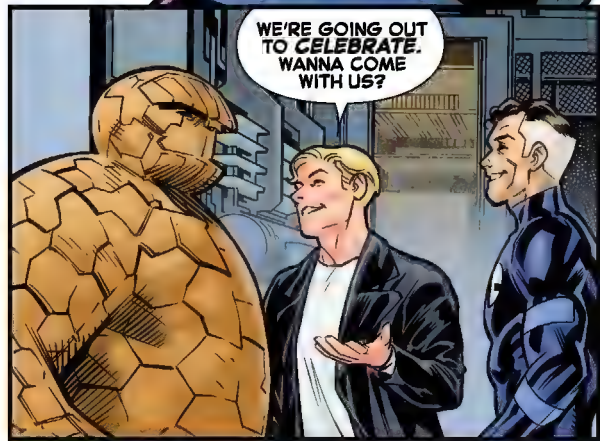
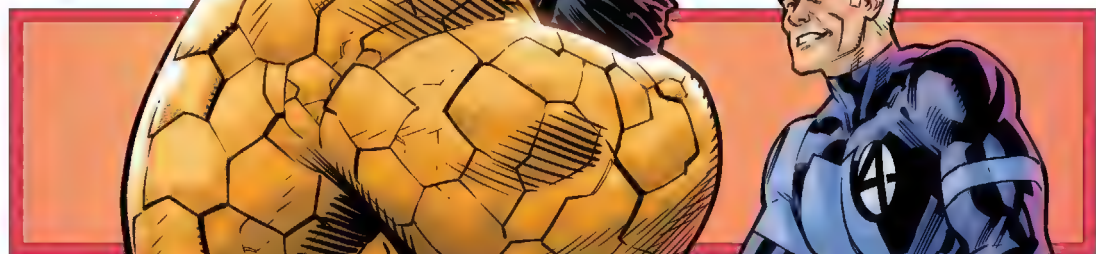
WELL,  
HELL ON A  
ROPE...



GET IN HERE!

OW! OW! EASY, UNCLE BEN!

I WON'T BRUISE YOU ANYWHERE THAT SHOWS!





# CENTRAL PARK.

LIFE IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES.

MOST OF THEM MISSED.

IS THIS A MISTAKE?  
PROBABLY.

BUT THEN, WHAT ISN'T?

LIFE'S A GAME OF LET'S MAKE A DEAL.  
EXCEPT THERE'S A DONKEY BEHIND EVERY DOOR.

WE ONLY IMAGINE THERE'RE PRIZES.

BECAUSE IT'S TH' ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US PLAYIN' A RIGGED GAME.

IT'S TH' ONLY THING THAT--

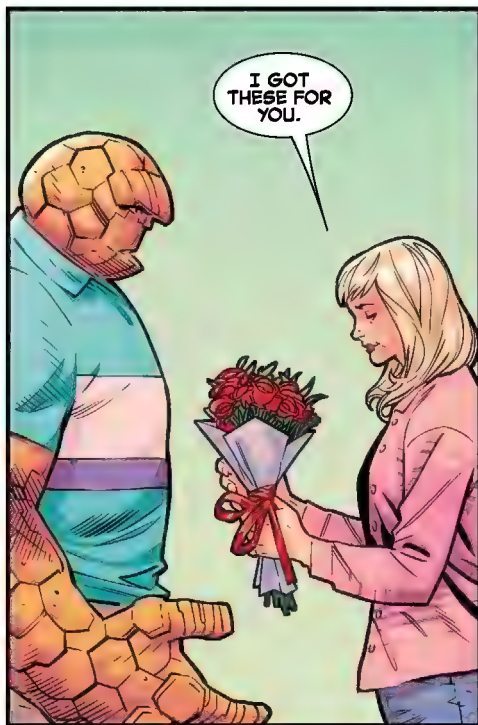
BEN?

SALLY?

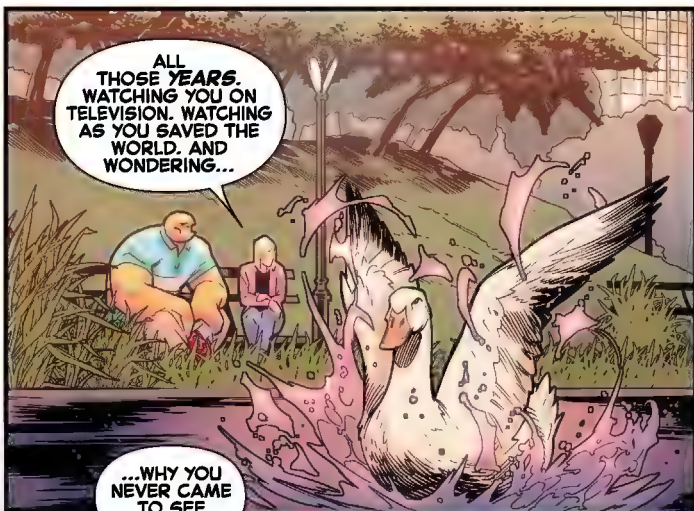
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG.



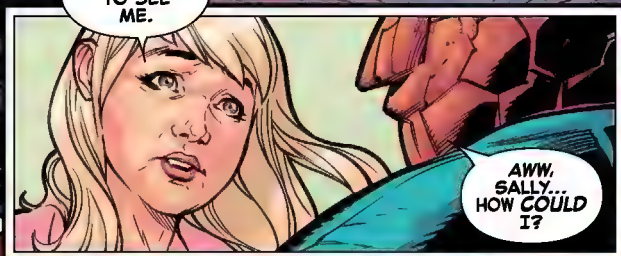


I GOT THESE FOR YOU.

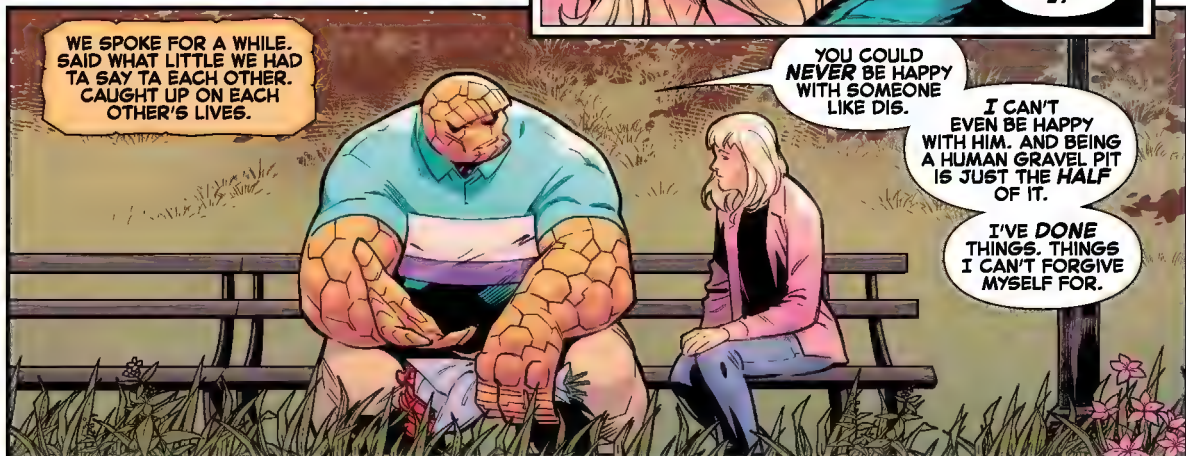


ALL THOSE YEARS. WATCHING YOU ON TELEVISION. WATCHING AS YOU SAVED THE WORLD. AND WONDERING...

...WHY YOU NEVER CAME TO SEE ME.



AWW, SALLY... HOW COULD I?

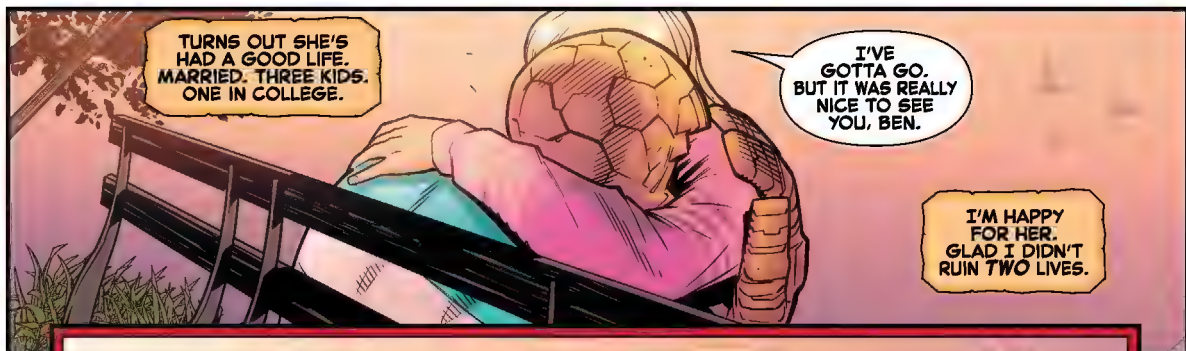


WE SPOKE FOR A WHILE. SAID WHAT LITTLE WE HAD TA SAY TA EACH OTHER. CAUGHT UP ON EACH OTHER'S LIVES.

YOU COULD NEVER BE HAPPY WITH SOMEONE LIKE DIS.

I CAN'T EVEN BE HAPPY WITH HIM. AND BEING A HUMAN GRAVEL PIT IS JUST THE HALF OF IT.

I'VE DONE THINGS. THINGS I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF FOR.



TURNS OUT SHE'S HAD A GOOD LIFE. MARRIED. THREE KIDS. ONE IN COLLEGE.

I'VE GOTTA GO. BUT IT WAS REALLY NICE TO SEE YOU, BEN.

I'M HAPPY FOR HER. GLAD I DIDN'T RUIN TWO LIVES.



THERE'S A REASON WHY YA ONLY BRING FLOWERS TO TH' SICK, TH' DYIN'...

...AND PEOPLE IN LOVE.



# ARECIBO OBSERVATORY, PUERTO RICO.

I WANTED YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO SEE THIS.

THAT OBJECT WE SPOTTED ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AGO... THE OBJECT YOU IDENTIFIED AS GALACTUS?

YES?

IT'S ACCELERATING.

SO, HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?

AT THIS RATE, JUST A FEW YEARS.

WELL, CRAP IN A HAT.

SO...ARE WE GOING TO BE READY?

I BELIEVE SO. IT'S A RACE AGAINST TIME, BUT IT'S ONE I THINK WE'LL WIN.

BUT YOU WERE RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

OUR FEAR WAS NEVER GOING TO SAVE US.

"SOME JOBS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO ANYTHING BUT HOPE."

FOOOOM





WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED THE NEWS THAT GALACTUS WAS COMIN'-- AND COMIN' SOON-- I THOUGHT EVERYONE'D BE SWEATIN' LIKE A BASEMENT TOILET.

BUT, TOGETHER, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN DEFEAT HIM.

BUT THEY WAS POSITIVELY EUPHORIC.



PERHAPS THEY FELT LIKE THIS WAS THEIR CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT THE HUMAN RACE WAS REALLY MADE OF.

ON THIS, THE LAST NIGHT OF 1994, WE WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PLANET'S GREATEST HEROES!

I'D LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

AND MANY MORE OF THEM!

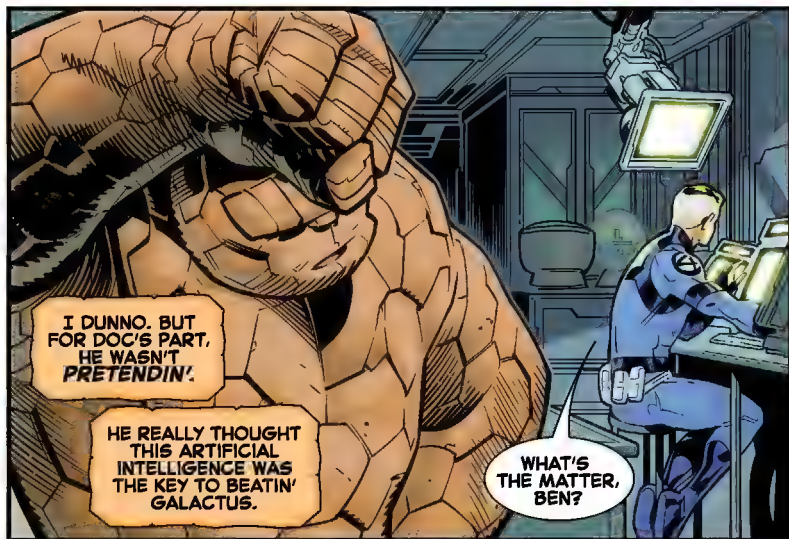
TO SHOW THAT, WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, WE REALLY COULD COME TOGETHER. BE WHAT WE WERE ALWAYS CAPABLE OF BEIN'.



OR MAYBE WE WERE JUST TRYING TO CONVINCE OURSELVES THAT EVERYTHING WAS GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

UNITED WE STAND

WITH US 2 THE END



I DUNNO. BUT FOR DOC'S PART, HE WASN'T PRETENDIN'.

HE REALLY THOUGHT THIS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WAS THE KEY TO BEATIN' GALACTUS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BEN?



THEY'RE STARIN' AT ME.



OR MAYBE HOPE IS JUST THE CAULK WE USE TO FILL THE GAPS IN OUR LIVES.

OH, SALLY...



1995.

WITH THE END OF  
THE WORLD COMIN'  
UP, SEEMED LIKE A  
GOOD TIME TO  
MEET SOMEONE.

SO I TRIED  
COMPUTER  
DATIN'.



IT DID NOT GO  
AS PLANNED.

UH...  
YOU DON'T  
REALLY LOOK  
LIKE YOUR  
PROFILE  
PHOTO.



I MEAN,  
SOMETIMES  
WE HAD FUN.

OH MY GOD!  
IT'S BEN  
GRIMM!

QUICK!  
TAKE THE  
PICTURE!



BUT THAT'S  
ALL IT WAS  
FOR THEM.

FUN.

I CAN'T  
WAIT TO TELL  
EVERYONE THAT  
I WENT OUT WITH  
THE THING!

HEY, BRO?  
CAN I GET  
A SNAP?

SURE.



I'D BECOME  
THE WORLD'S  
GRUMPIEST  
TOURIST  
ATTRACTION.

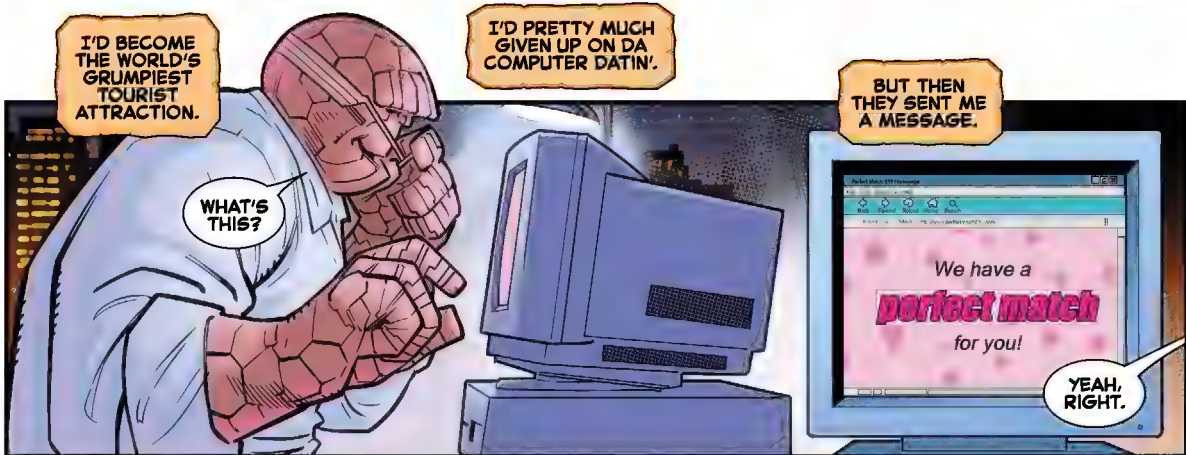
I'D PRETTY MUCH  
GIVEN UP ON DA  
COMPUTER DATIN'.

WHAT'S  
THIS?

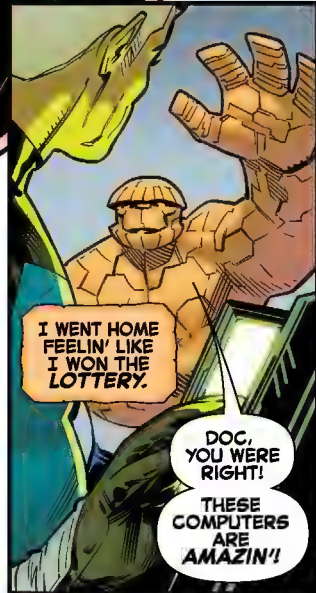
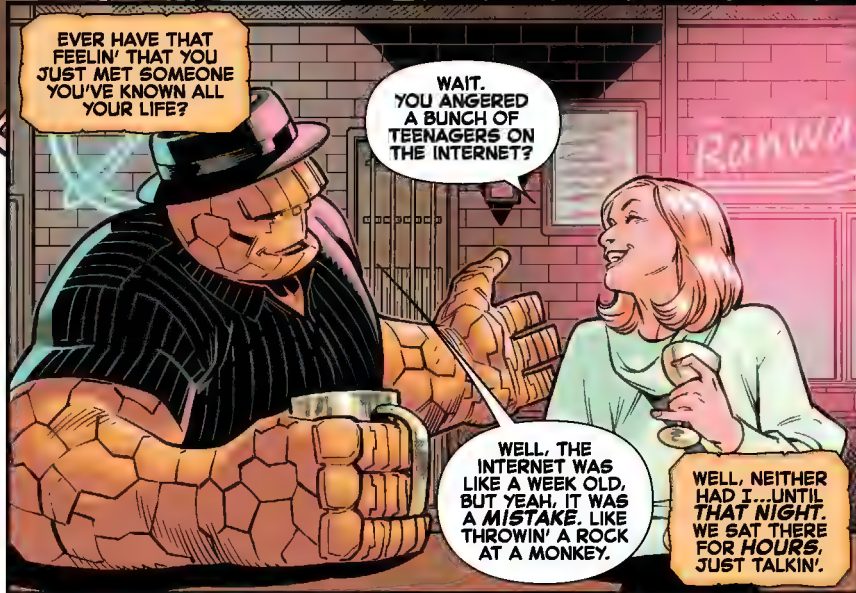
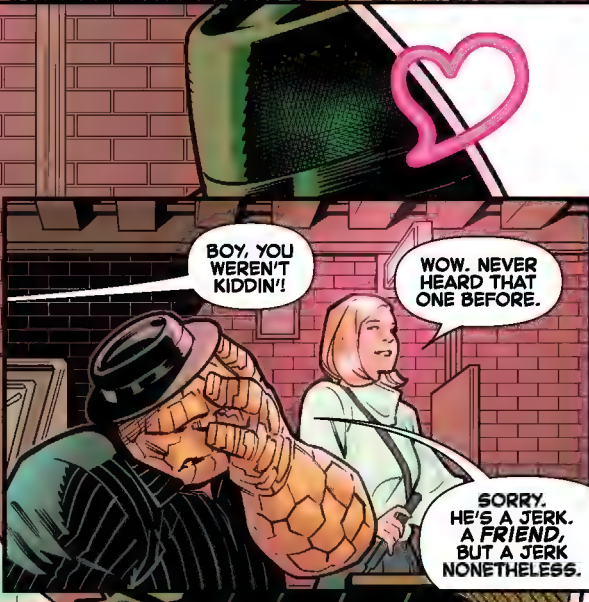
BUT THEN  
THEY SENT ME  
A MESSAGE.

We have a  
**perfect match**  
for you!

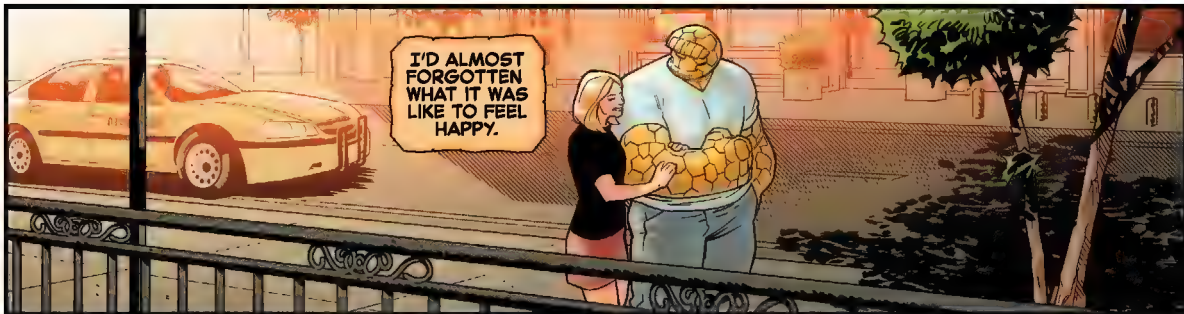
YEAH,  
RIGHT.











I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO FEEL HAPPY.

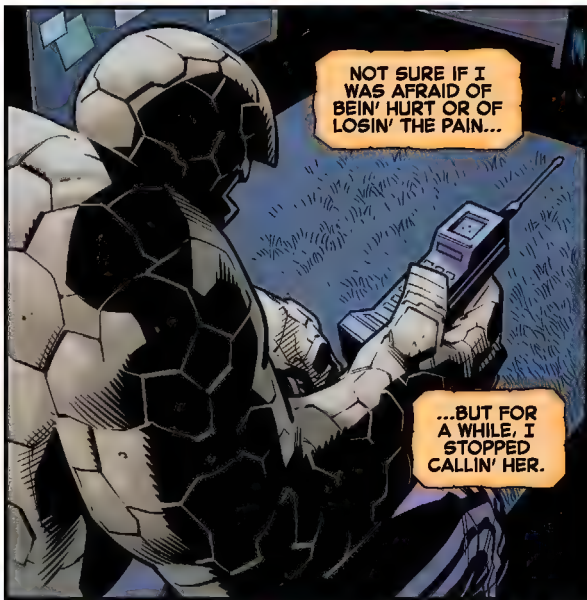


TO FEEL HUMAN. AND THAT WORRIED ME.



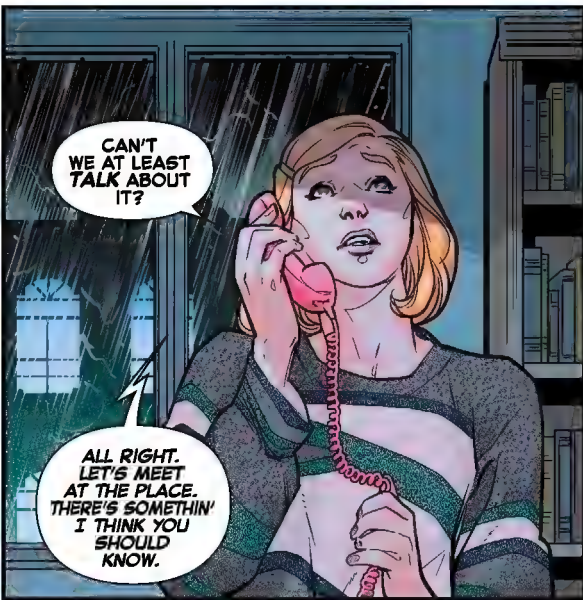
HAD I BEEN A THING SO LONG...

...THAT NONE OF THIS FELT REAL TO ME?



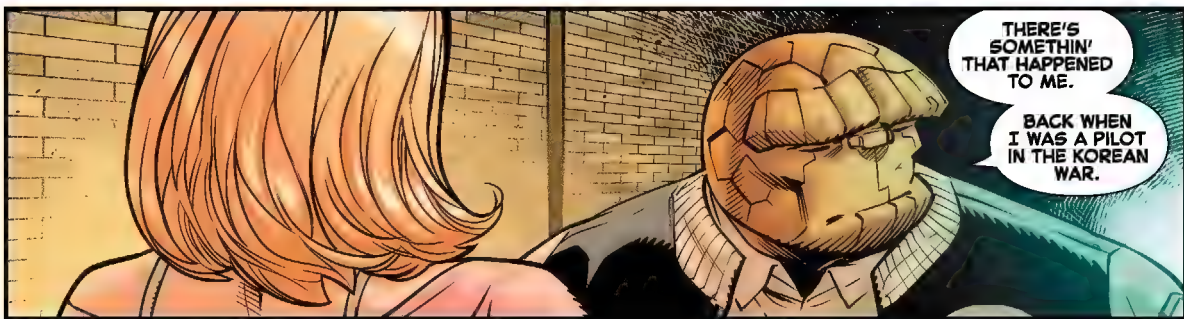
NOT SURE IF I WAS AFRAID OF BEIN' HURT OR OF LOSIN' THE PAIN...

...BUT FOR A WHILE, I STOPPED CALLIN' HER.



CAN'T WE AT LEAST TALK ABOUT IT?

ALL RIGHT. LET'S MEET AT THE PLACE. THERE'S SOMETHIN' I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.



THERE'S SOMETHIN' THAT HAPPENED TO ME.


BACK WHEN I WAS A PILOT IN THE KOREAN WAR.






"WE WERE  
FLYIN' MISSIONS  
OVER OCCUPIED  
TERRITORY.  
BOMBIN' ENEMY  
SUPPLY LINES.

APPROACHIN'  
TARGET.



"WHAT THEY DIDN'T  
TELL US IS THAT THE  
SUPPLY LINES USUALLY  
WENT THROUGH  
VILLAGES. CIVILIANS.

BOMBS  
AWAY.



"THEY WAS TOO  
POLITE TO TELL  
US WHAT WE  
WERE REALLY  
BOMBIN'.

GOOD  
FLYIN', BEN. SEE  
YOU AT THE BAR  
LATER?

DEPENDS  
ON HOW  
QUICKLY YA  
BLACK OUT.



"THEY WAS SOME  
GOOD GUYS I  
SERVED WITH.

"ON WEEKENDS,  
WE USED TA GO  
TO A NEARBY  
ORPHANAGE.

C'MON,  
MOOCH.  
JUST A  
LITTLE?

NO WAY.  
THE SUPPLIES  
ARE FOR  
SERVICEMEN  
ONLY.

YOU WANT  
TO GIVE THEM  
KIDS CANDY, DO  
IT OUT OF YOUR  
PERSONAL  
RATIONS.



"TONY AND  
I, WE'D TAKE  
THE ORPHANS  
SOME CANDY. PLAY  
WITH THEM FOR  
A WHILE.

"TO MAKE THEM FEEL  
LIKE EVERYTHING WAS  
GOING TO BE OKAY.  
AND MAYBE TO MAKE  
OURSELVES FEEL  
THAT WAY TOO.





"BUT ONE DAY,  
THERE WERE ALL  
THESE NEW KIDS.  
ALL BANDAGED  
AND BROKEN."

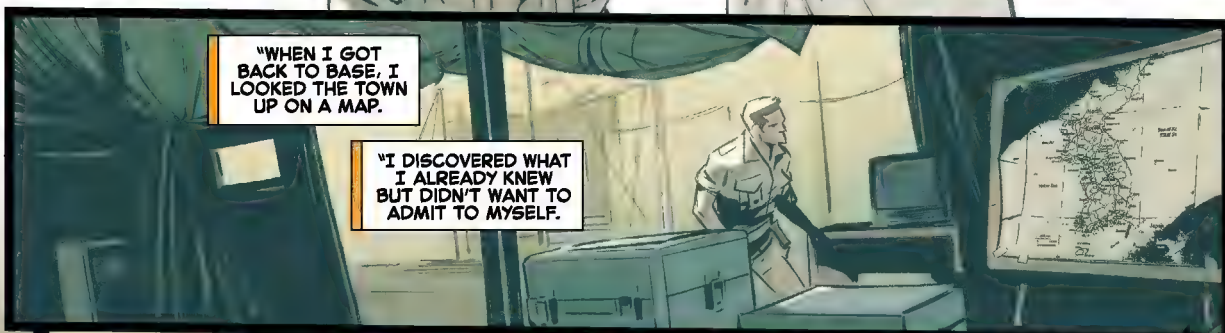
"THE WHOLE  
PLACE SUDDENLY  
LOOKED LIKE A  
HOSPITAL WARD."

"WHEN I ASKED WHAT  
WAS GOIN' ON, THE  
GUY WHO RAN THE  
PLACE TOLD ME THE  
NEW KIDS WERE FROM  
A SMALL TOWN UP  
BY THE FRONT."



"WHEN I GOT  
BACK TO BASE, I  
LOOKED THE TOWN  
UP ON A MAP."

"I DISCOVERED WHAT  
I ALREADY KNEW  
BUT DIDN'T WANT TO  
ADMIT TO MYSELF."

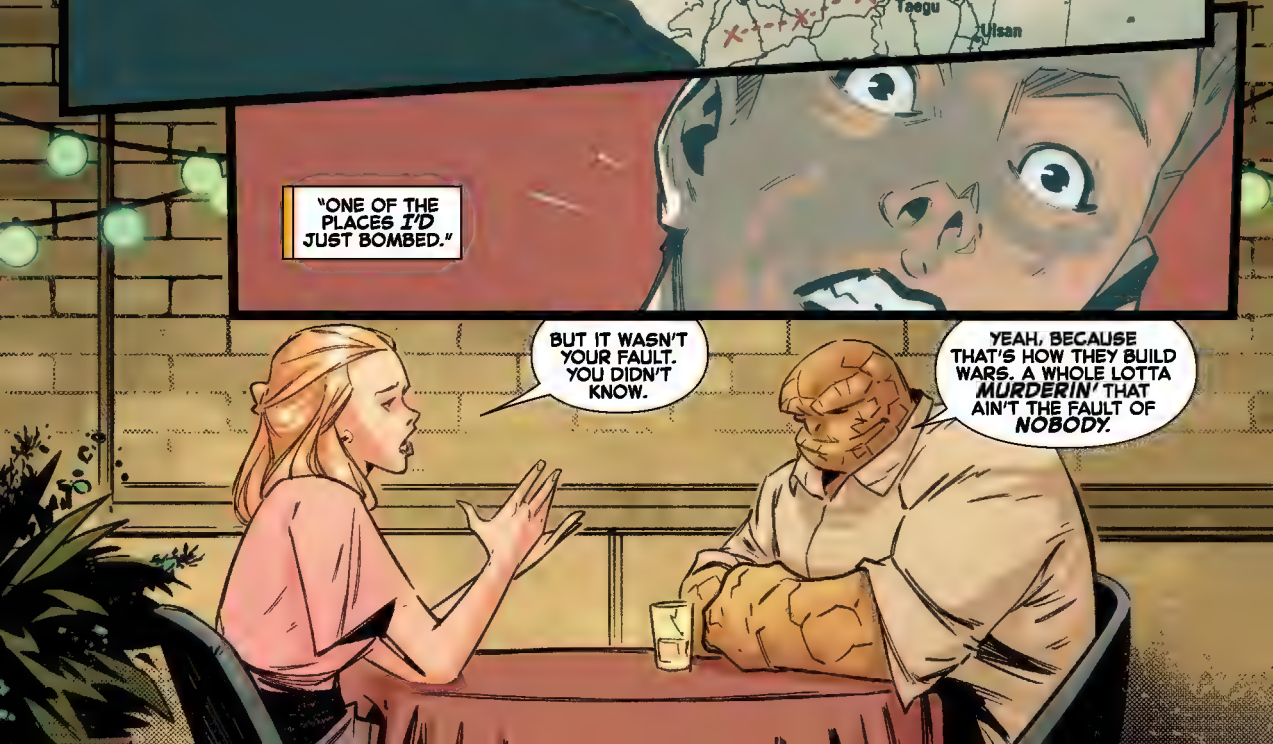


"IT WAS  
ONE OF THE  
PLACES WE'D  
JUST BOMBED."

"ONE OF THE  
PLACES I'D  
JUST BOMBED."

BUT IT WASN'T  
YOUR FAULT.  
YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW.

YEAH, BECAUSE  
THAT'S HOW THEY BUILD  
WARS. A WHOLE LOTTA  
MURDERIN' THAT  
AIN'T THE FAULT OF  
NOBODY.



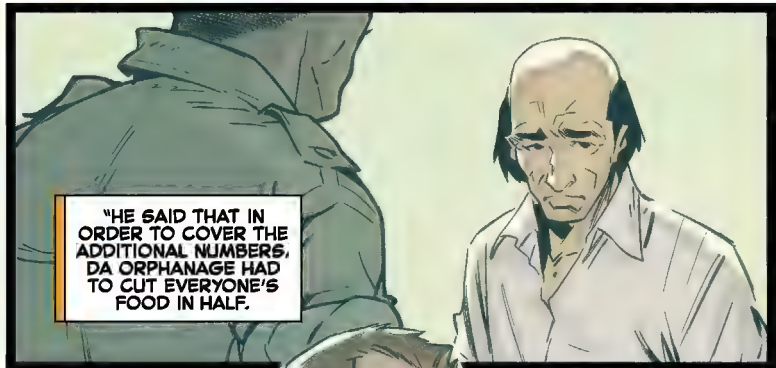




"THE KIDS DIDN'T KNOW WHO BOMBED THEM. AND I NEVER TOLD 'EM. BUT IT WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT.



"WHEN I NOTICED ALL THAT THE KIDS HAD TO EAT WAS SOMETHIN' THEY GENEROUSLY CALLED **SOUP**, I SPOKE TO THE GUY IN CHARGE.



"HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL NUMBERS, DA ORPHANAGE HAD TO CUT EVERYONE'S FOOD IN HALF.



"THE KIDS LOVED ME. AND I WAS THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THEM.



"IT WAS A WAR, THEY EXPLAINED.

"IN WAR, EVERYBODY HAS A DUTY AND NO ONE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY.

STOP RIGHT THERE, BEN.

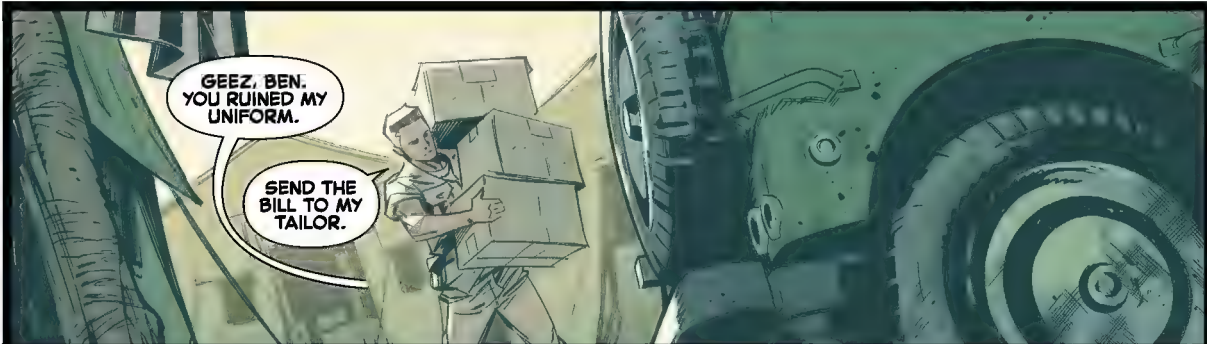
OUTTA MY WAY, MOOCH.



"BUT WE'RE STILL JUST PEOPLE.

"AND GOD HELP ME, I DECIDED TO ACT LIKE ONE."





GEEZ, BEN.  
YOU RUINED MY  
UNIFORM.

SEND THE  
BILL TO MY  
TAILOR.



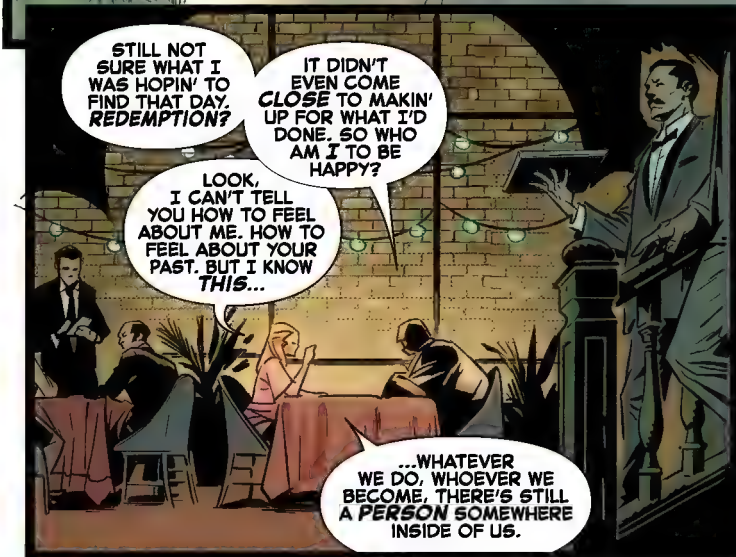
"THEY COURT-  
MARTIALED ME  
THE NEXT DAY.



"GOT A  
DISHONORABLE  
DISCHARGE.



"I NEVER  
SAW THOSE  
KIDS AGAIN."

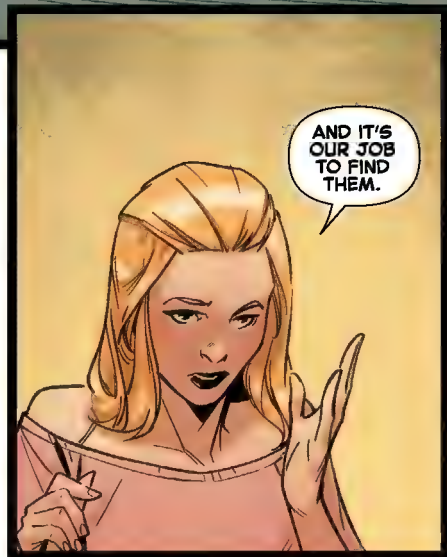


STILL NOT  
SURE WHAT I  
WAS HOPIN' TO  
FIND THAT DAY.  
REDEMPTION?

IT DIDN'T  
EVEN COME  
CLOSE TO MAKIN'  
UP FOR WHAT I'D  
DONE. SO WHO  
AM I TO BE  
HAPPY?


LOOK,  
I CAN'T TELL  
YOU HOW TO FEEL  
ABOUT ME. HOW TO  
FEEL ABOUT YOUR  
PAST. BUT I KNOW  
THIS...

...WHATEVER  
WE DO, WHOEVER WE  
BECOME, THERE'S STILL  
A PERSON SOMEWHERE  
INSIDE OF US.



AND IT'S  
OUR JOB  
TO FIND  
THEM.





I NEVER  
TOLD NO ONE  
THAT STORY  
BEFORE.  
YOU KNOW.

BEN, ALL  
I KNOW IS THAT  
THERE'S SO LITTLE  
JOY AND LOVE IN THE  
WORLD THAT WHEN YOU  
ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO  
**ACTUALLY FIND  
SOME--**

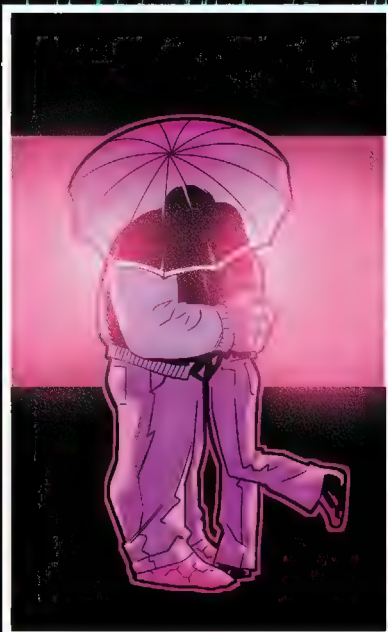
--DON'T  
TALK YOURSELF  
OUT OF IT.

SOMETIMES,  
THE SCARIEST  
THING ABOUT  
FALLING IN  
LOVE--

--IS  
FEELING LIKE  
YOU DESERVE  
IT.

BUT YOU  
**DO** DESERVE IT,  
YOU KNOW.

WE  
BOTH  
DO.







1996.

DOG!  
ARE YOU STILL  
ASLEEP?



WAKE  
UP!

Zzzzz...  
HNGGHFF.



C'MON! YER  
BOY'S GETTIN'  
MARRIED TODAY!  
WE CAN'T  
MISS IT.

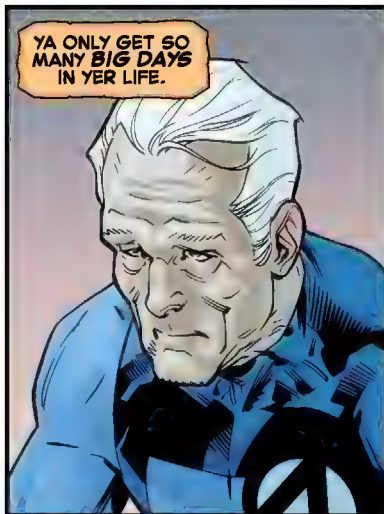
Y'HAVE  
ANY IDEA HOW  
HARD IT WAS TO  
RENT A TUXEDO  
THIS BIG?

HUH?  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

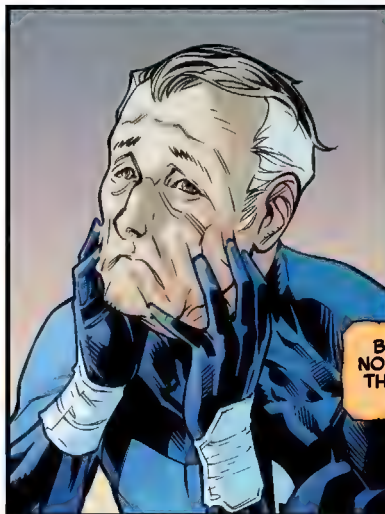


YOU  
OVERSLEPT,  
GERITOL!

NOW GET  
TO PRIMPIN'!  
I'LL HITCH THE  
WAGON.



YA ONLY GET SO  
MANY BIG DAYS  
IN YER LIFE.

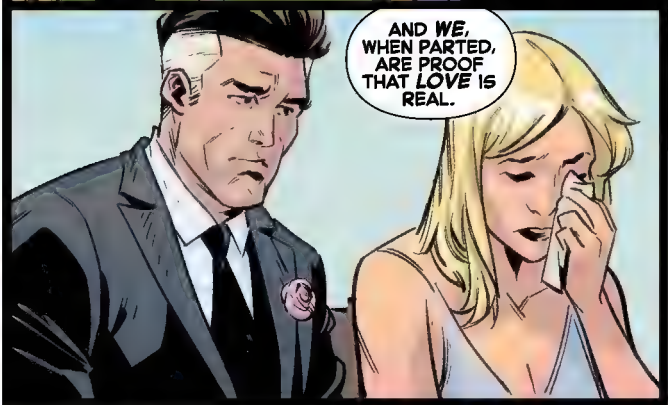
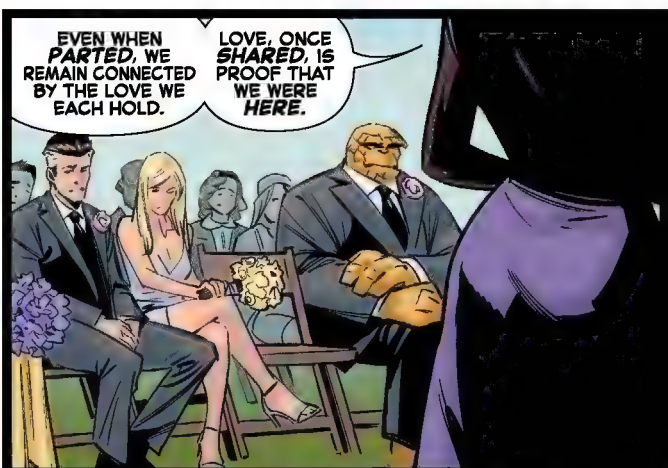


BETTER  
NOT SLEEP  
THROUGH 'EM.



BE  
THERE IN A  
MINUTE.





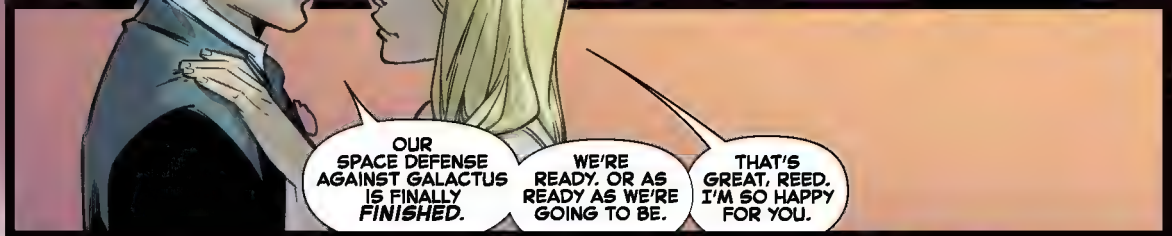




YOUR PARENTS ARE DECENT DANCERS FOR OLD PEOPLE.

PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT THEM.

YOU'RE NEVER THERE...



OUR SPACE DEFENSE AGAINST GALACTUS IS FINALLY FINISHED.

WE'RE READY. OR AS READY AS WE'RE GOING TO BE.

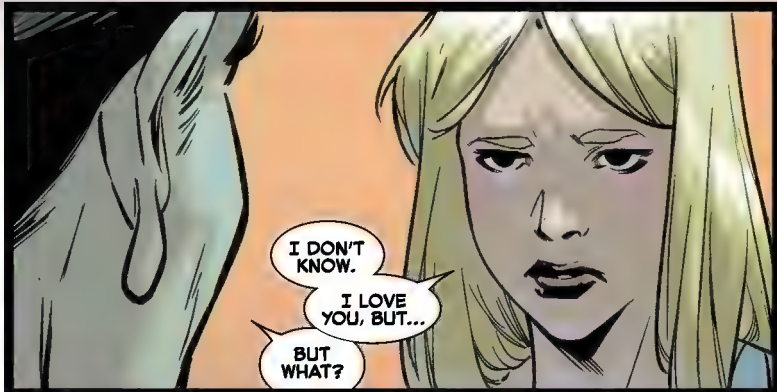
THAT'S GREAT, REED. I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.



WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS... I KNOW THAT I WAS A FOOL, SUE. THAT I REPLACED OUR LOVE WITH WORK.

BUT I'M READY TO LIVE AGAIN.

OH, REED.



I DON'T KNOW.

I LOVE YOU, BUT...

BUT WHAT?



REED, YOU DON'T LIVE SO MUCH AS YOU BUILD A MONUMENT TO LIFE.

YOU TRY SO HARD... BUT YOU'RE BUILDING A STATUE OF THE MAN YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.



AND YOU CAN LOVE A STATUE, BUT IT WILL NEVER LOVE YOU BACK.





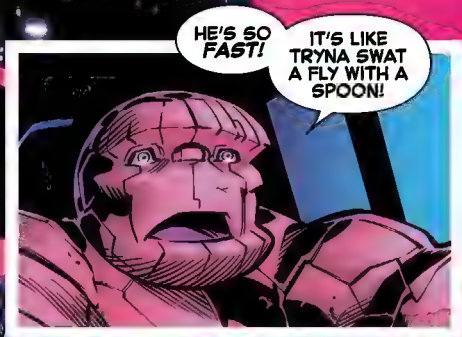
AND PROMISES ARE WHAT WE  
HOLD ON TO WHEN WE FINALLY  
HAVE SOMETHIN' WORTH LOSIN'.

**WRRROOO**









HE'S SO FAST!

IT'S LIKE TRYNA SWAT A FLY WITH A SPOON!

FZOOOOOSH

BOOM

KIOW



WE LOST. IT ONLY TOOK A MINUTE. AND WE LOST IT ALL.



WELL, I HAVEN'T! NOT YET.

I JUST FOUND A WOMAN WHO LOVES ME.

AND I AIN'T GIVIN' IT UP WITHOUT A FIGHT.





BOOM



PATHETIC,  
REALLY.





IF KILLIN' US  
BOTH IS WHAT  
IT TAKES, THEN  
SO BE IT.

COUNT NO  
MAN HAPPY  
TILL THE END.



AND COUNT NO  
MAN OUT WHEN  
HE'S FIGHTIN' FOR  
WHAT HE LOVES.

IS THIS WHAT  
THEY CALL  
REDEMPTION?







HMM.  
NOT BAD.

BOARD,  
TO ME.



JUST  
NOT GOOD  
ENOUGH.

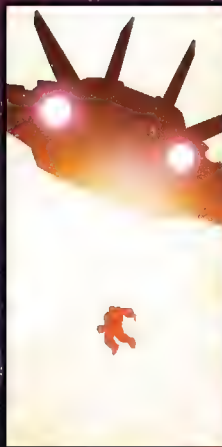


WELL,  
THIS IS IT.  
SORRY,  
ALICIA.

SORRY  
I WASN'T  
BETTER.



JUST  
A LITTLE  
CLOSER...

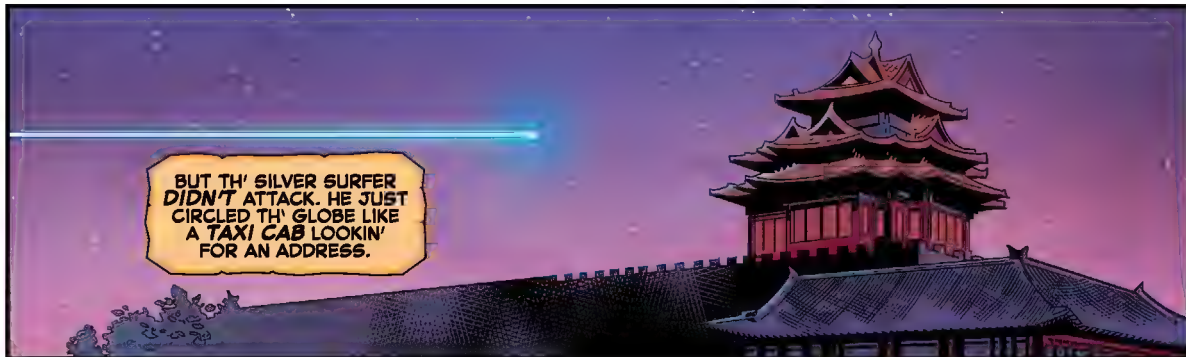


GOTCHA.

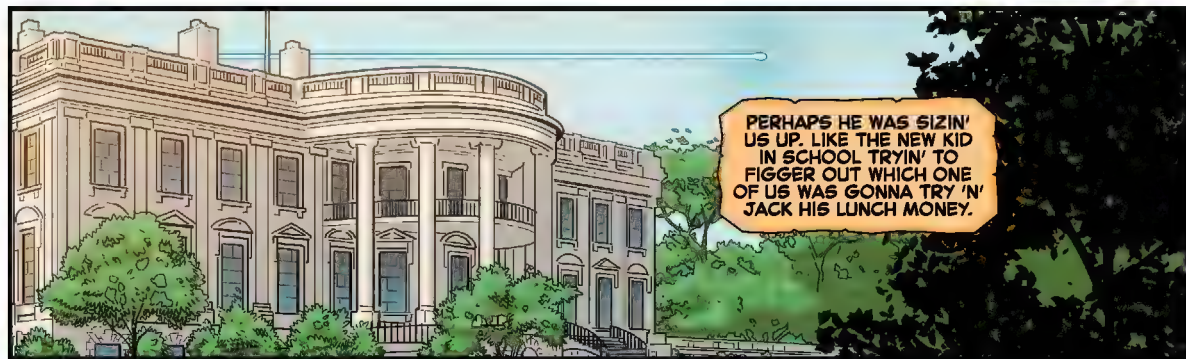


CAUGHT  
ME AT THE  
WARNIN' TRACK,  
DOC!

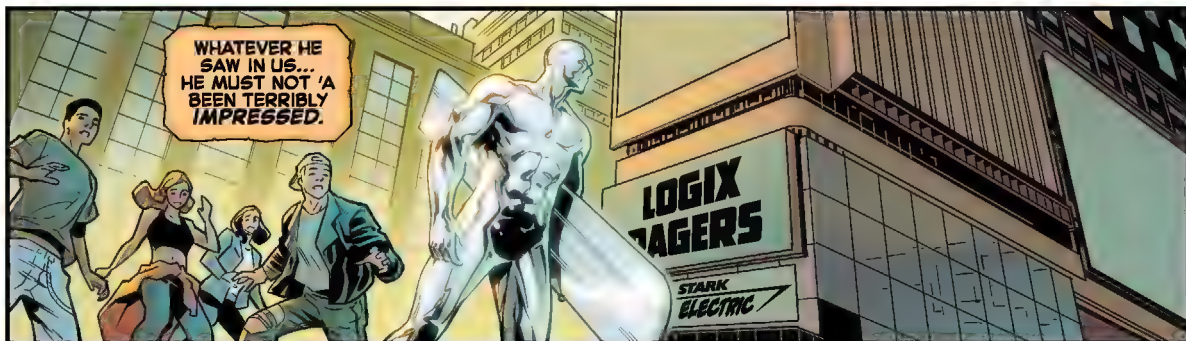




BUT TH' SILVER SURFER  
DIDN'T ATTACK. HE JUST  
CIRCLED TH' GLOBE LIKE  
A TAXI CAB LOOKIN'  
FOR AN ADDRESS.



PERHAPS HE WAS SIZIN'  
US UP, LIKE THE NEW KID  
IN SCHOOL TRYIN' TO  
FIGGER OUT WHICH ONE  
OF US WAS GONNA TRY 'N'  
JACK HIS LUNCH MONEY.



WHATEVER HE  
SAW IN US...  
HE MUST NOT 'A  
BEEN TERRIBLY  
IMPRESSED.



'CUS HE JUST  
WALKED UP TO  
OUR FRONT DOOR  
AND TOLD US HOW  
IT WAS GONNA BE.



YOU MAY  
CALL ME THE  
HERALD.



WHOSE  
HERALD?





YOU  
KNOW  
WHOSE.

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN.

TURNS OUT  
TH' UNIVERSE  
IS A LOT LIKE  
HEAVYWEIGHT  
BOXIN'.

YOUR  
DEFENSES ARE  
**WORTHLESS**. I  
DESTROYED THEM WITH  
BARELY AN EFFORT.  
AND I AM BUT ONE-  
THOUSANDTH AS  
POWERFUL  
AS HE.

ONCE IN A WHILE,  
YOU GET A TITLE  
BOUT BETWEEN TWO  
EVENLY MATCHED  
FIGHTERS.

IT'S TOO  
LATE FOR YOU,  
PEOPLE OF  
EARTH.

BUT MOST 'A  
THE TIME, IT'S  
JUST SOME POOR  
DREAMER GETTIN'  
OBLITERATED BY  
THE CHAMP.

I SUGGEST  
YOU MAKE WHATEVER  
PEACE YOU CAN. TELL  
YOURSELVES WHATEVER  
YOU NEED TO IN ORDER  
TO FIND MEANING IN  
THE END.

FOR MY  
MASTER WILL  
ARRIVE TEN  
YEARS FROM  
NOW.

"GALACTUS  
IS COMING.

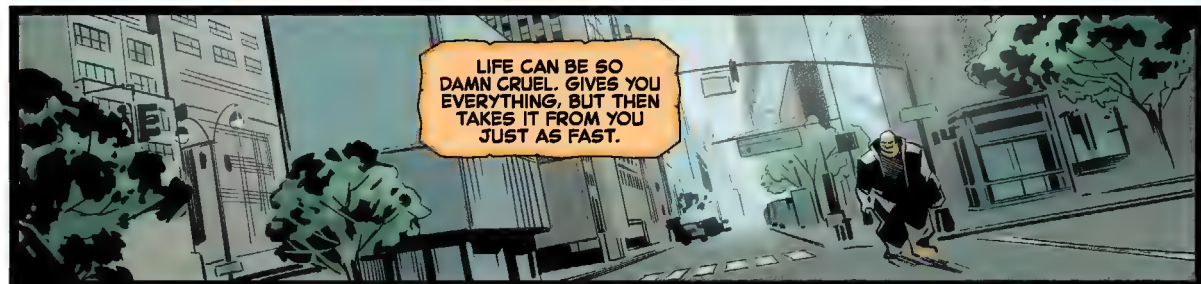
"AND THERE IS  
NOTHING YOU CAN  
DO ABOUT IT."





BEN.

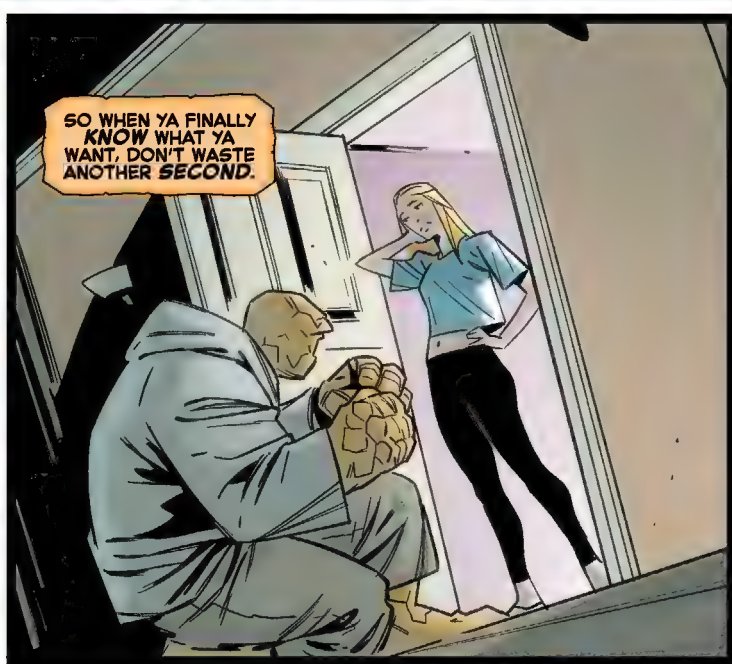
LEMME  
GO.



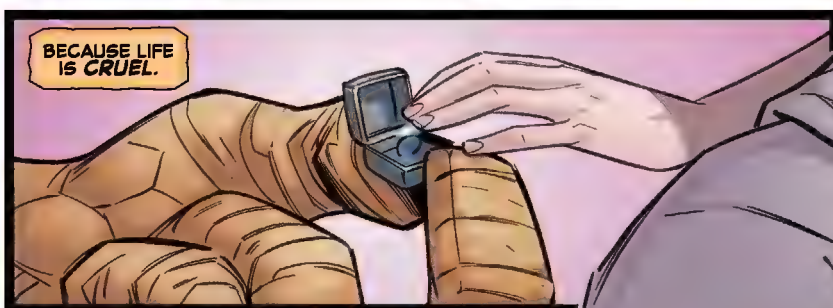
LIFE CAN BE SO  
DAMN CRUEL. GIVES YOU  
EVERYTHING, BUT THEN  
TAKES IT FROM YOU  
JUST AS FAST.



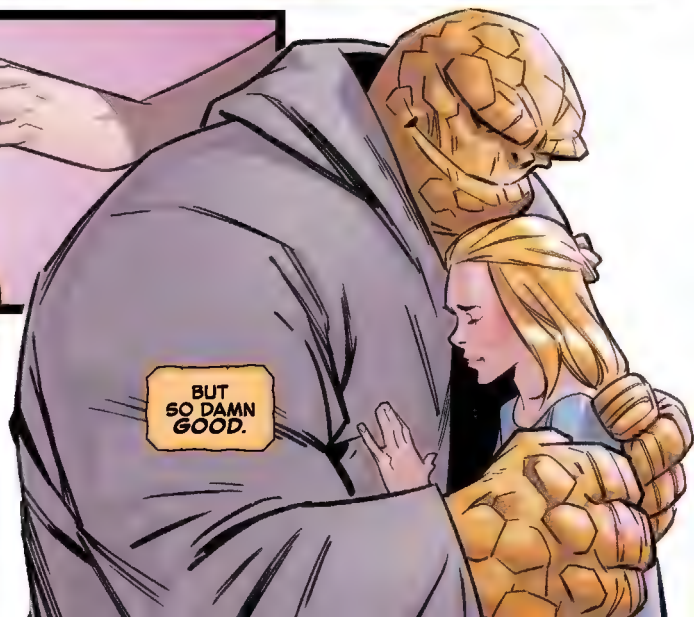
GIVES YOU JUST  
ENOUGH TIME TO  
FIGGER OUT WHAT'S  
GOIN' ON BEFORE IT ALL  
ENDS. TO FIGGER OUT  
WHAT MATTERS.



SO WHEN YA FINALLY  
KNOW WHAT YA  
WANT, DON'T WASTE  
ANOTHER *SECOND*.



BECAUSE LIFE  
IS *CRUEL*.



BUT  
SO DAMN  
*GOOD*.



1999.

IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS, TIMES SQUARE WILL BE BUZZING AS WE CELEBRATE THE END OF A DECADE, THE END OF A CENTURY AND THE END OF A MILLENNIUM!

AS THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE LAST TIMES WE EVER MEET, WE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL TO CELEBRATE NEW YORK'S GREATEST HEROES. WITHOUT WHOM WE WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN MADE IT TO THE YEAR 2000.



THE  
**Fantastic  
Four!**

WE'D LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE. FOR ALL THEY'VE DONE FOR US OVER THE YEARS.

REED?

THEY TRULY ARE THE BEST WE HAD TO OFFER.

SOMETHIN' WRONG, DOC?

DOC?





# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story*

5 The '00s



2002.

AFTER THE ONE WE  
CAME TO CALL THE  
SILVER SURFER ARRIVED  
AND MADE MINCEMEAT  
OF OUR DEFENSES,  
THE EARTH BEGAN TO  
ACCEPT ITS FATE.

WE LIKED TO IMAGINE  
THAT A COMMON  
THREAT WOULD UNITE  
THE WORLD. BRING US  
ALL TOGETHER.

AND MAYBE,  
FOR A LITTLE  
WHILE, IT DID.

IT REALLY  
IS BEAUTIFUL,  
IN ITS OWN  
PRIMITIVE  
WAY.

BUT, AS USUAL,  
THE FEELING THAT  
THE CHALLENGE  
WAS TOO BIG, THE  
CONSEQUENCES  
TOO HORRIBLE TO  
CONTEMPLATE...

...UNITED  
US ONLY IN  
INACTION.

I WOULD  
LIKE TO PROPOSE  
A RESOLUTION...  
BUT IT APPEARS THAT  
WE DO NOT HAVE A  
QUORUM.

ALL OUR CONFLICTS,  
STRUGGLES, ALL OUR  
FIGHTS OVER WHAT THE  
FUTURE WOULD HOLD,  
WE JUST SORT OF  
GAVE UP ON THEM.

AT THIS POINT,  
I SUPPOSE...

...WHY  
BÖTHER?

DOWN UNTIL  
GALACTUS DAY  
4 years 3 months,  
25 days.





OF COURSE,  
NOT **EVERYONE**  
JUST THREW IN  
THE TOWEL.



DESPERATE FOR  
SOME SORT OF EDGE  
AGAINST GALACTUS,  
DAD REBUILT HIS  
SUBSPACE CHAMBER.

INCREASING  
POWER INPUT.

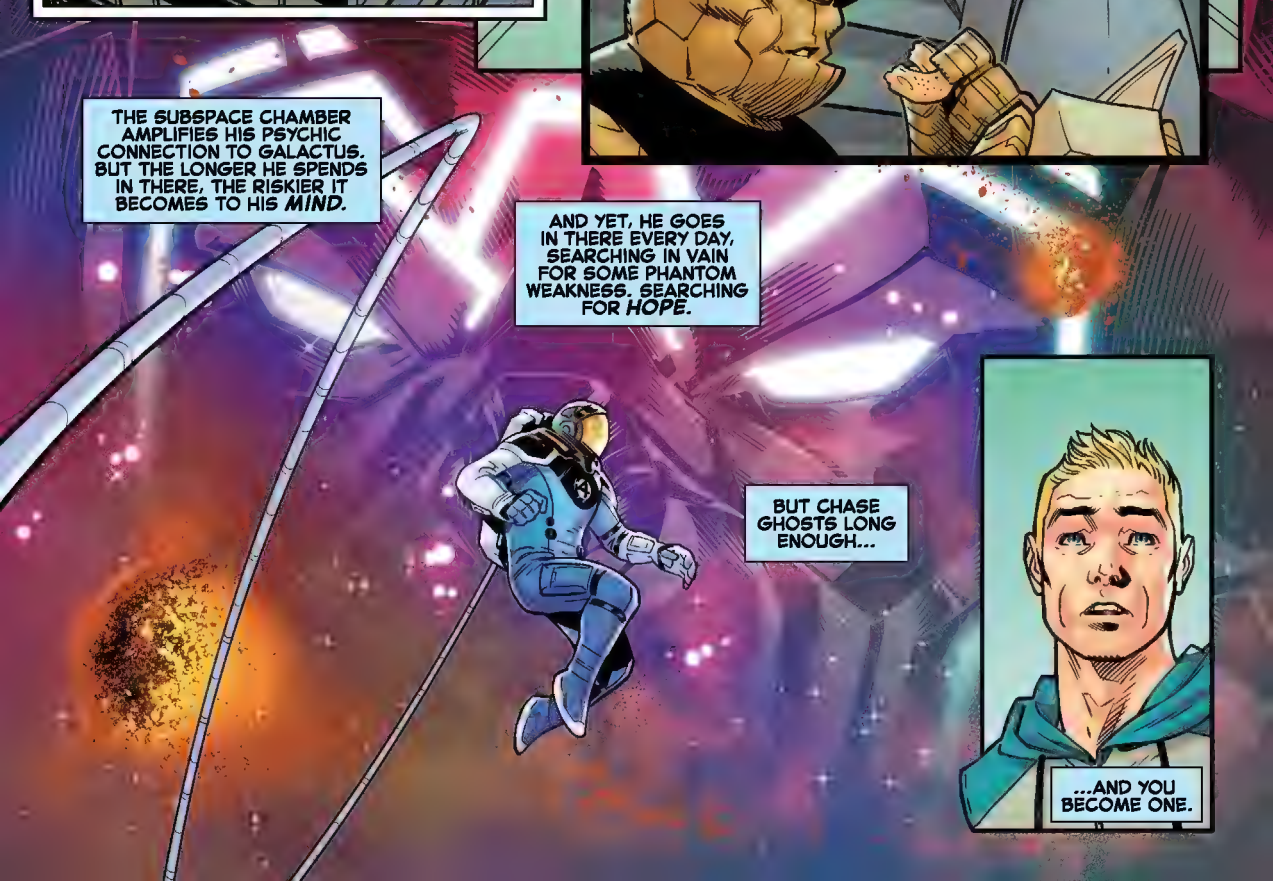
*FWWWHIIIRRR*

ARE YOU  
SURE ABOUT  
THIS, DAD?

IF  
GALACTUS HAS  
ANY **WEAKNESS**,  
FRANKLIN...  
I'VE GOT TO  
FIND IT.



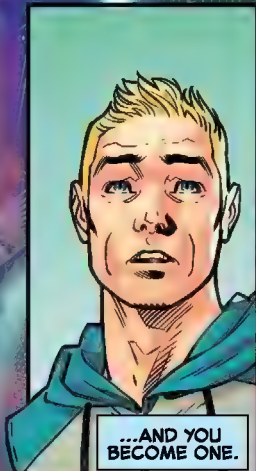
WELL, I GOT BAGELS  
FOR WHEN YA GET  
OUT, DOC.



THE SUBSPACE CHAMBER  
AMPLIFIES HIS PSYCHIC  
CONNECTION TO GALACTUS.  
BUT THE LONGER HE SPENDS  
IN THERE, THE RISKIER IT  
BECOMES TO HIS **MIND**.

AND YET, HE GOES  
IN THERE EVERY DAY,  
SEARCHING IN VAIN  
FOR SOME PHANTOM  
WEAKNESS. SEARCHING  
FOR **HOPE**.

BUT CHASE  
GHOSTS LONG  
ENOUGH...



...AND YOU  
BECOME ONE.



HE'S ALWAYS BEEN  
LOOKING TO THE  
STARS, SEARCHING  
FOR SOMETHING.

SOMEWHERE  
BEHIND THOSE  
CLOUDS IS  
CASSIOPEIA.

AND, IF  
YOU LOOK OVER  
THERE, YOU CAN  
JUST SEE  
TAURUS.

WHATEVER IT WAS  
THAT MADE LIFE  
WORTH LIVING, HE  
SEEMED CONVINCED  
IT LAY OUT THERE.

DADDY.  
IT'S COLD.

SOMETHING HE  
USED TO SAY TO ME  
WHEN I WAS A KID...

THE REASON  
THE SKY  
EXISTS...

THAT'S  
JUPITER, AND  
SOMETIMES, WHEN  
THE CONDITIONS ARE  
JUST RIGHT, YOU  
CAN SEE ITS MOON  
GANYMEDE.

...IS SO THAT  
WE HAVE TO  
LOOK UP FROM  
TIME TO TIME.

HE'S BEEN IN  
THERE TOO  
LONG. GET  
HIM OUT!

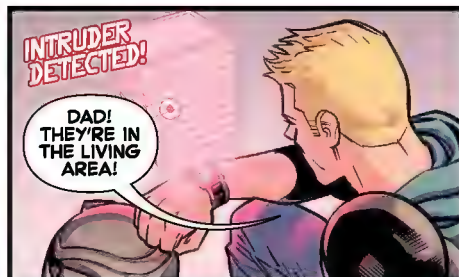
POWERING  
DOWN.

FFWWHIIIRRRR

I'VE  
GOT YOU,  
DAD!

I'M  
FINE,  
SON.







**INTRUDER  
DETECTED!**

I LET  
MYSELF IN.  
I HOPE YOU  
DON'T  
MIND.

**INTRUDER  
DET--**

EVER  
HEAR OF  
EMAIL?

I SAY WE  
THROW HIM  
OUT, ANYWAY.  
FOR TH'  
BAGELS.

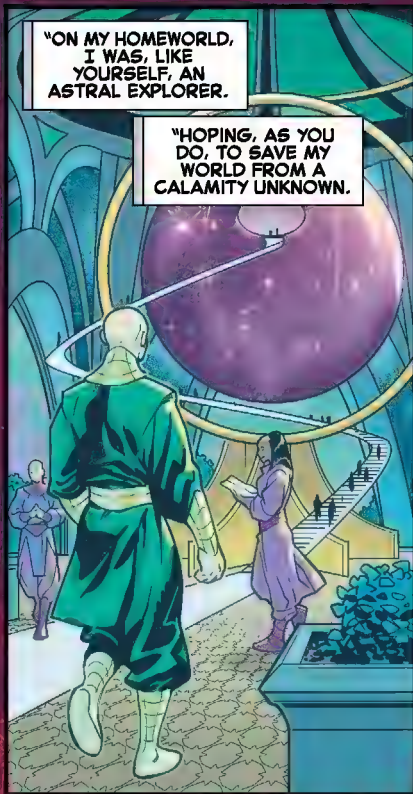
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT?

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
WORKING ON IN  
YOUR LABORATORY.  
TO SAVE YOUR  
PLANET.

AND  
IT WON'T  
WORK.

BUT  
THERE IS  
ANOTHER  
WAY.





"ON MY HOMEWORLD,  
I WAS, LIKE  
YOURSELF, AN  
ASTRAL EXPLORER.

"HOPING, AS YOU  
DO, TO SAVE MY  
WORLD FROM A  
CALAMITY UNKNOWN.



"NEVER  
SUSPECTING  
THAT I WAS THAT  
CALAMITY.

"I PROJECTED MY  
CONSCIOUSNESS,  
DEEPER AND DEEPER  
INTO THE COSMOS...



"...UNTIL I FELT  
**HIS PRESENCE.**

"AND HE  
FELT **MINE.**



"IT WAS MY  
CONNECTION TO  
GALACTUS THAT  
BROUGHT HIM TO  
ZENN-LA.

"AND, IN MY  
DESPERATION--

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

"--I HOPED OUR  
CONNECTION WOULD  
BE THE THING THAT  
**SAVED IT.**"





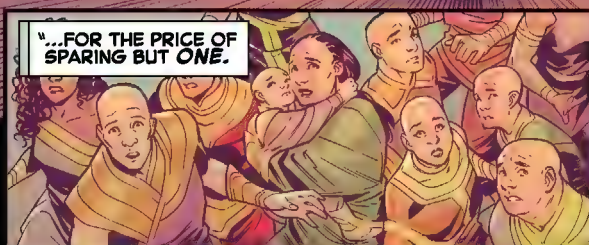


"I MADE HIM  
AN OFFER."

"TO PLACE  
OUR PSYCHIC  
CONNECTION IN  
HIS SERVICE."

"AS AN ASTRONOMER  
WHO'D DEVOTED HIS  
LIFE TO MAPPING THE  
GALAXY, I KNEW OF  
MILLIONS OF WORLDS."

"TO WHICH  
I WOULD  
GUIDE HIM..."



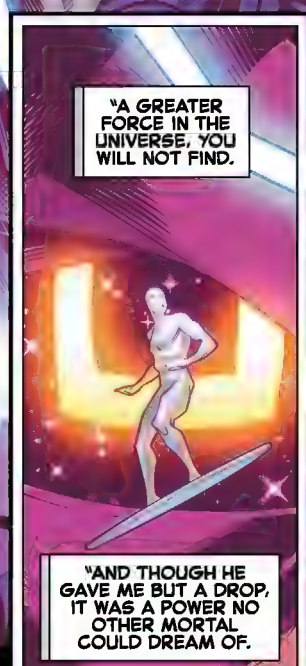
"...FOR THE PRICE OF  
SPARING BUT ONE."



"HE  
AGREED."



"THAT I MIGHT  
BETTER SERVE  
HIM, HE ENDOWED  
ME WITH THE  
POWER COSMIC."



"A GREATER  
FORCE IN THE  
UNIVERSE, YOU  
WILL NOT FIND."

"AND THOUGH HE  
GAVE ME BUT A DROP,  
IT WAS A POWER NO  
OTHER MORTAL  
COULD DREAM OF."



"I HAD SAVED  
EVERYONE I HAD  
EVER KNOWN  
AND LOVED."

FOR  
YOU, MY  
MASTER.

'AND BECAME  
THE BUTCHER  
OF BILLIONS.'

THAT  
WAS SEVERAL  
MILLENNIA  
AGO.

I AM  
OLD. TO PUT IT  
PLAINLY, I AM  
DYING.

EVERYTHING  
OKAY, DAD?

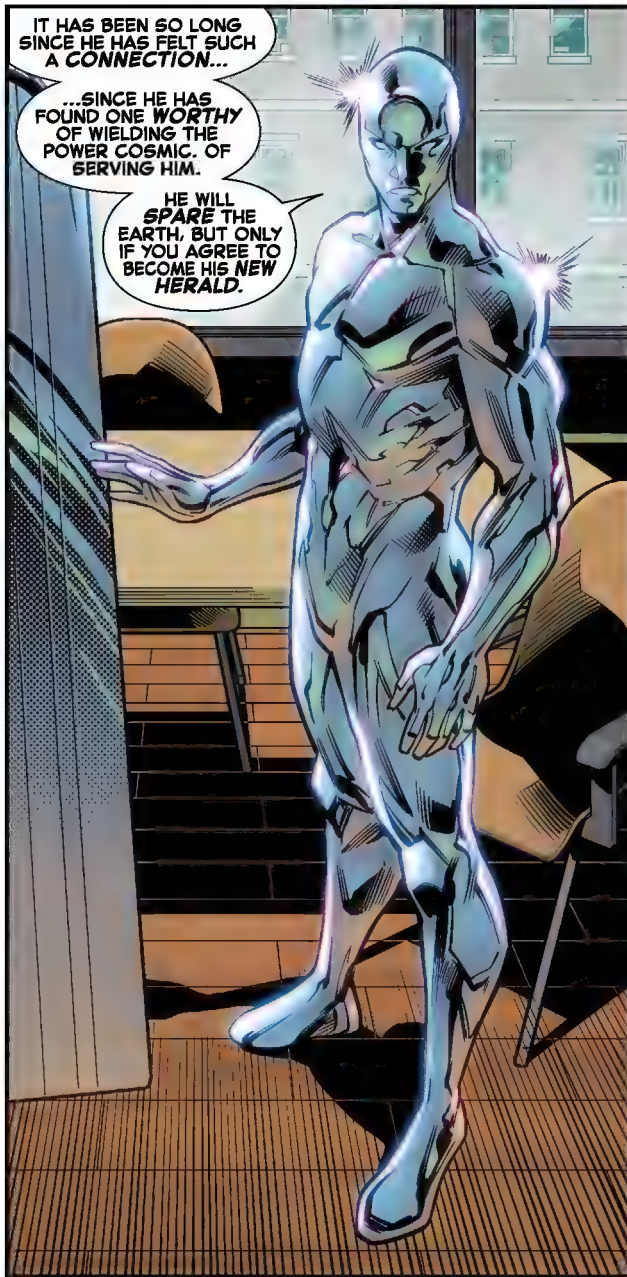
EVERYTHING'S  
FINE, FRANKLIN.

WHICH IS  
WHY GALACTUS  
IS COMING TO  
EARTH.

NOT TO  
DEVOUR IT, REED  
RICHARDS...

...BUT TO MAKE  
YOU THE SAME  
OFFER.





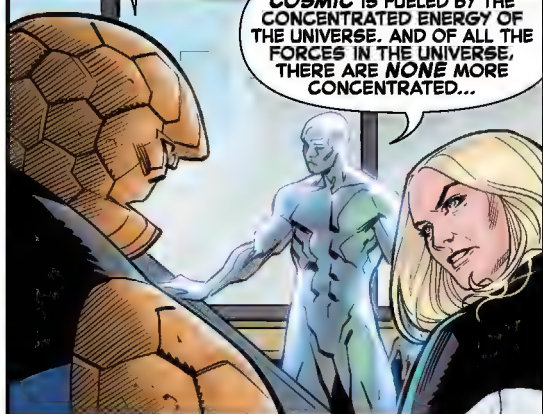
IT HAS BEEN SO LONG SINCE HE HAS FELT SUCH A **CONNECTION**...

...SINCE HE HAS FOUND ONE **WORTHY** OF WIELDING THE **POWER COSMIC**. OF SERVING HIM.

HE WILL **SPARE** THE EARTH, BUT ONLY IF YOU AGREE TO BECOME HIS **NEW HERALD**.

GREAT STORY, OSCAR! BUT AT THE RISK OF ASKIN' A STUPID QUESTION--

--IF YOU WAS HIS **HERALD**, WHY'N'T YA LEAD HIM TO, I DON'T KNOW, SOME **UNINHABITED** PLANETS?



THE **POWER COSMIC** IS FUELED BY THE CONCENTRATED ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE, AND OF ALL THE FORCES IN THE UNIVERSE, THERE ARE **NONE** MORE CONCENTRATED...



...THAN THE **POWER OF CONSCIOUSNESS**.



NOTHING BECKONS DESTRUCTION MORE THAN THE AWARENESS THAT YOU ARE BEING DESTROYED.



BUT, AS **HERALD**, YOU ARE NOT **POWERLESS**.

WHILE I HAVE CONDEMNED MANY WORLDS TO EXTINCTION, BY CHOOSING WHERE TO LEAD MY MASTER, I HAVE ALSO **SAVED** COUNTLESS IRREPLACEABLE CIVILIZATIONS FROM DESTRUCTION.



AND IT IS **THIS POWER** THAT I NOW OFFER TO YOU.



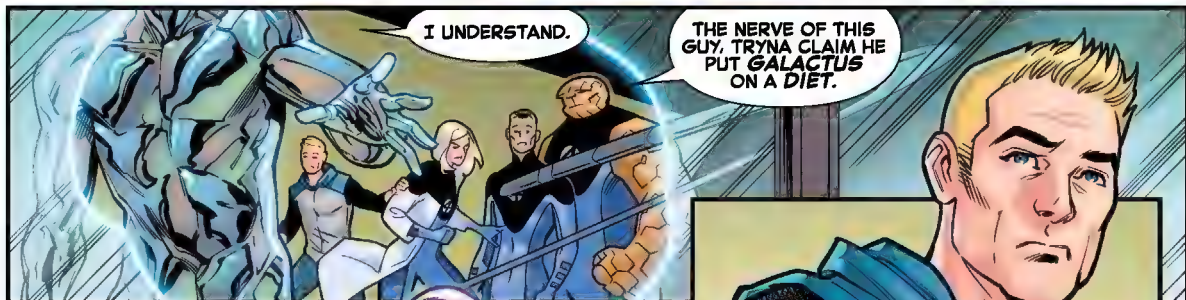


IF THERE IS **ONE LESSON** THAT THIS SORRY PLANET SHOULD HAVE MASTERED BY NOW, IT IS THIS--

--THAT YOU DO NOT **DEFEAT A GOD...** BY BECOMING ONE.

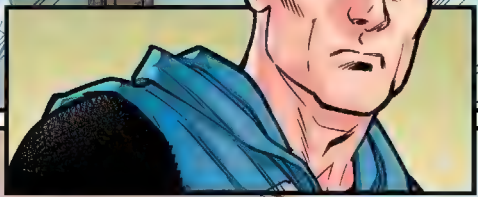
YOU DO NOT **CHANGE POWER.** IT CHANGES YOU.

I'M SORRY, BUT THE ANSWER IS NO.



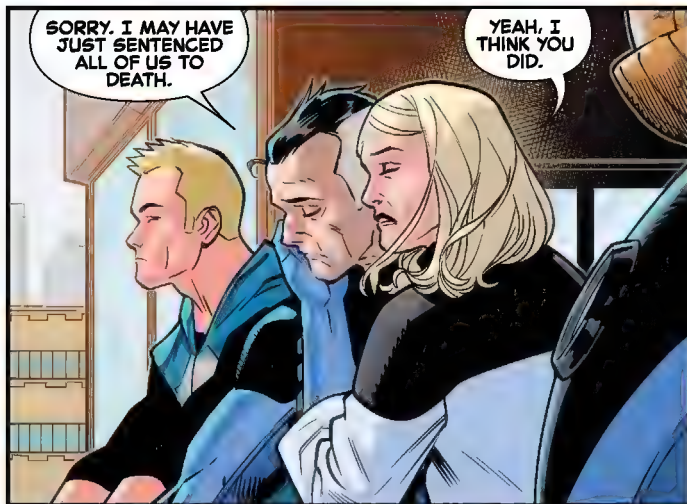
I UNDERSTAND.

THE NERVE OF THIS GUY, TRYNA CLAIM HE PUT **GALACTUS** ON A DIET.



VERY NOBLE. WE'LL SEE HOW YOU FEEL WHEN EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER LOVED IS SINKING INTO THE **MAGMA**.

AT ANY RATE, YOU HAVE **FOUR YEARS** TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.



SORRY. I MAY HAVE JUST SENTENCED ALL OF US TO DEATH.

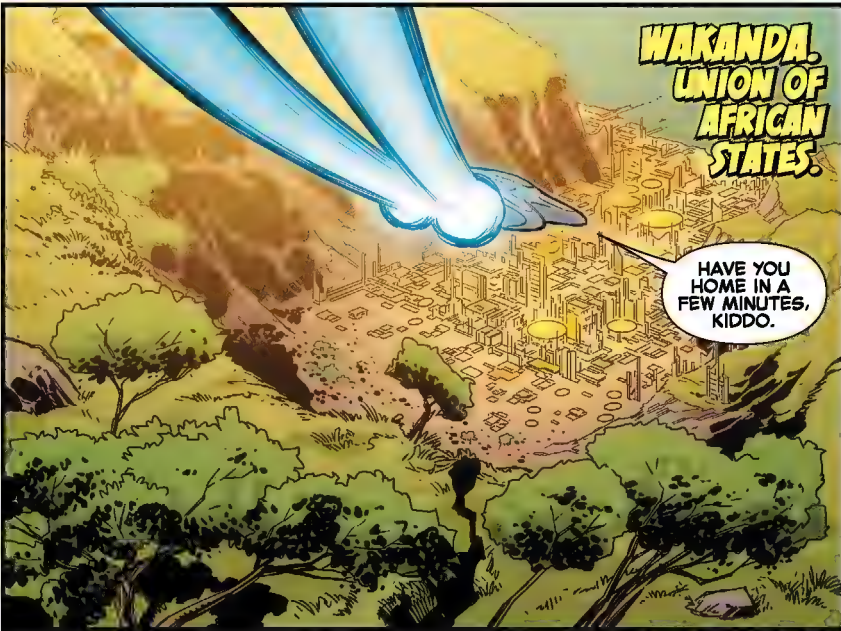
YEAH, I THINK YOU DID.



AND--

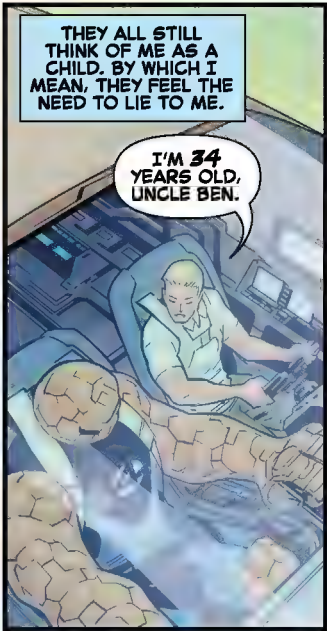
--I'VE NEVER LOVED YOU MORE THAN I DO RIGHT NOW.





**WAKANDA.  
UNION OF  
AFRICAN  
STATES.**

HAVE YOU  
HOME IN A  
FEW MINUTES,  
KIDDO.



THEY ALL STILL  
THINK OF ME AS A  
CHILD. BY WHICH I  
MEAN, THEY FEEL THE  
NEED TO LIE TO ME.

I'M 34  
YEARS OLD,  
UNCLE BEN.



AFTER UNCLE JOHNNY DIED,  
THEY TOOK EVEN MORE  
PAINS TO PROTECT ME.

DON'T  
WORRY, SONNY.  
WE'RE NOT DOOMED  
YET. YER DAD'LL  
THINK OF SOMETHIN'.



BUT THERE COMES  
A POINT WHEN  
YOU CANNOT ALLOW  
YOURSELF TO BE  
TREATED AS A  
CHILD ANYMORE.

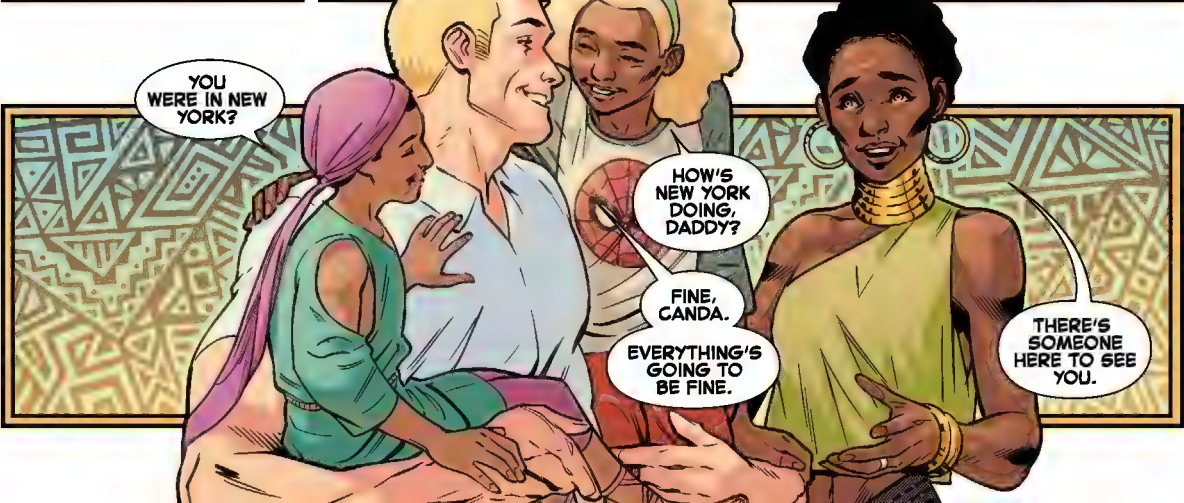
HE'S  
BACK!



DADDY!

I SUPPOSE  
I NEED TO GO  
TO NEW YORK FOR  
A WEEK IF I WANT  
A WELCOME LIKE  
THAT.

AND THAT POINT  
COMES WHEN IT'S  
YOUR TURN TO LIE  
TO SOMEONE ELSE.



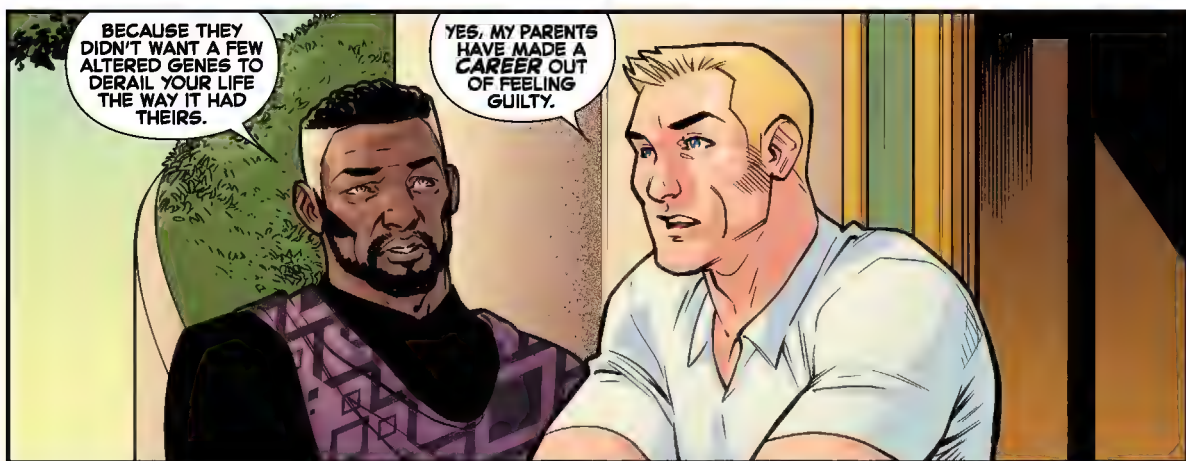
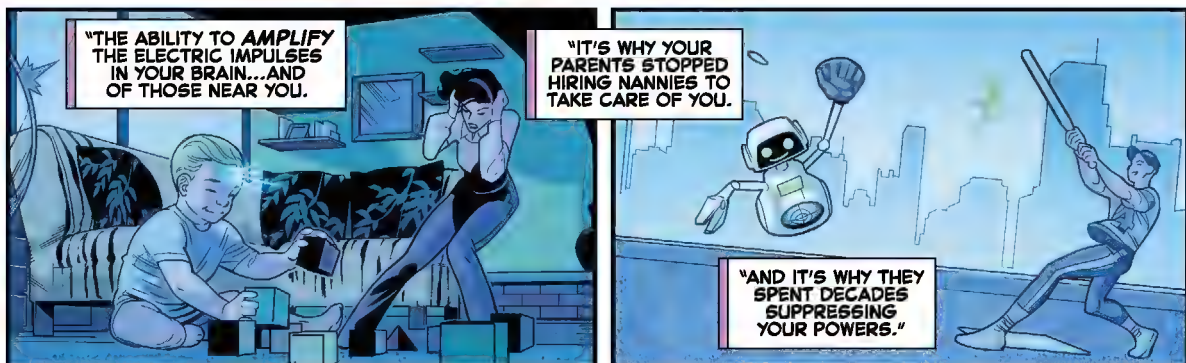
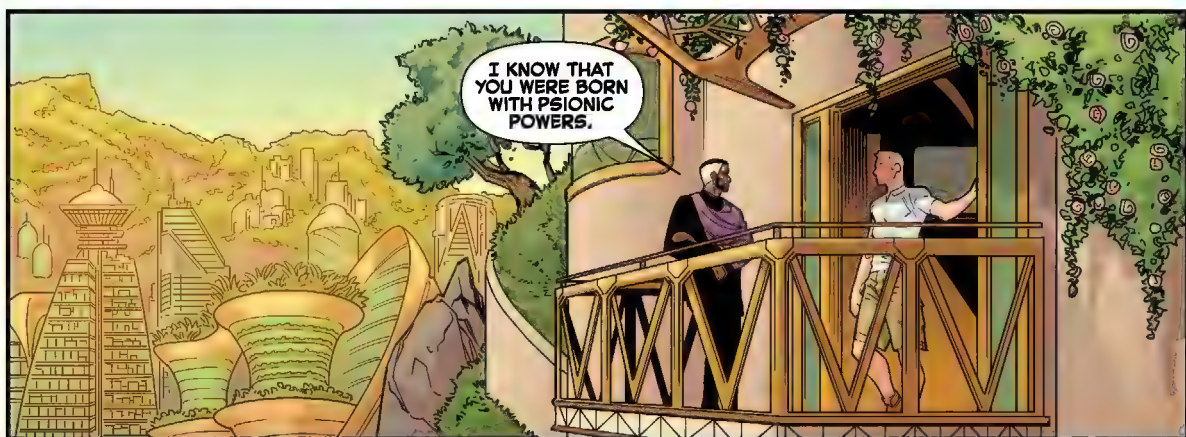
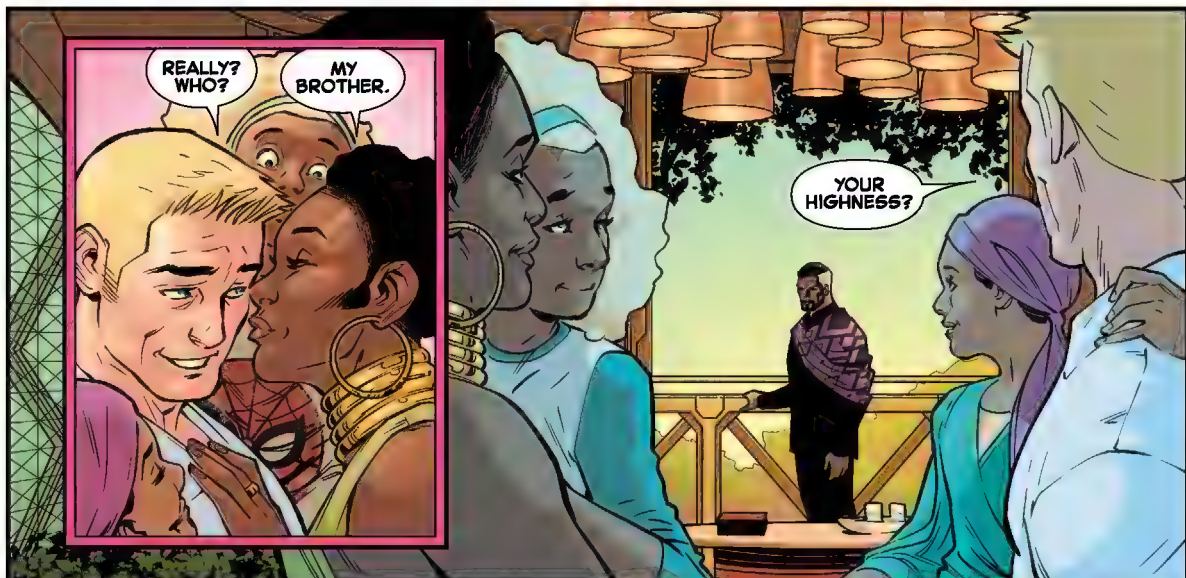
YOU  
WERE IN NEW  
YORK?

HOW'S  
NEW YORK  
DOING,  
DADDY?

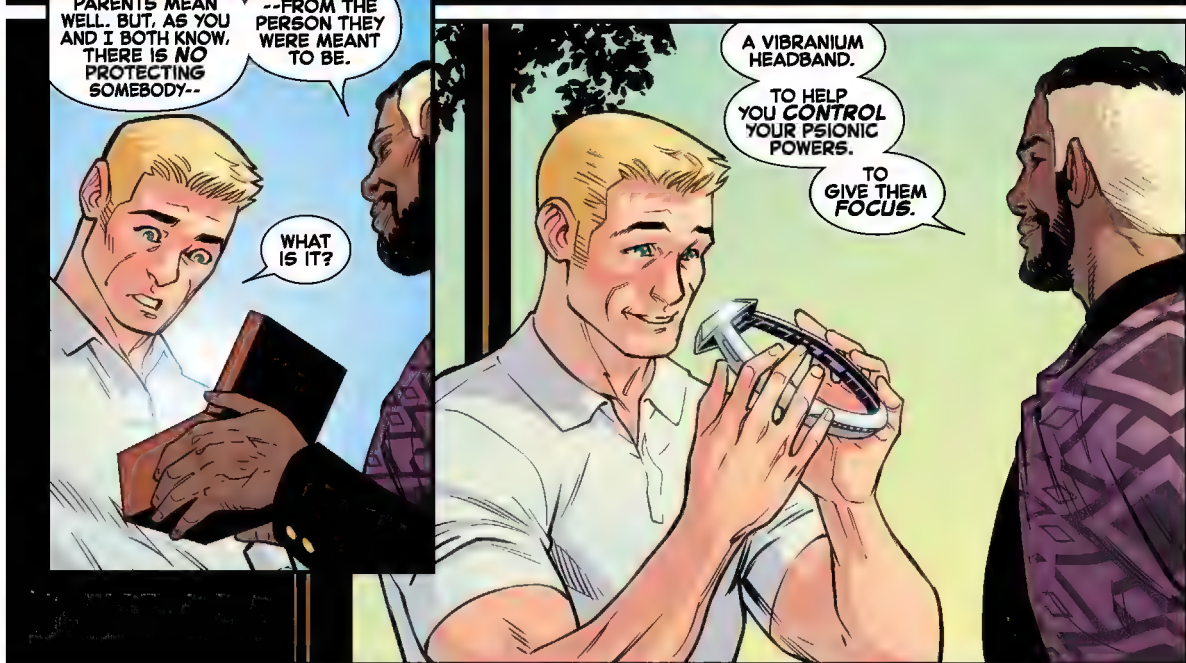
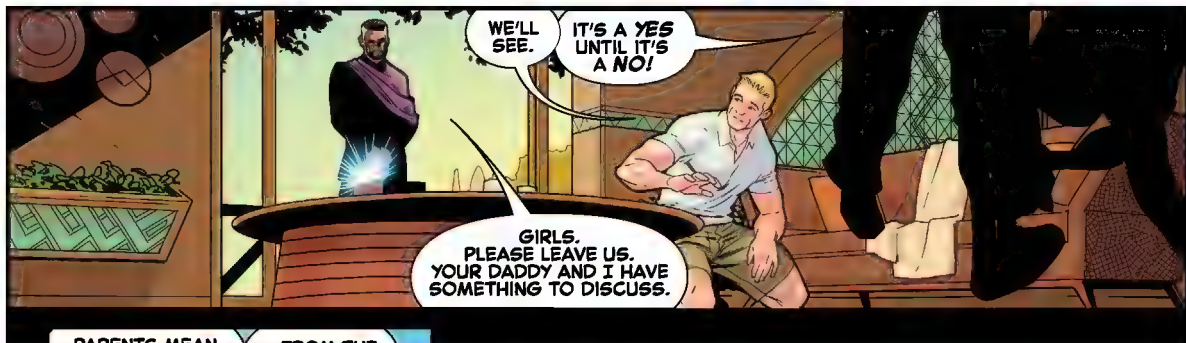
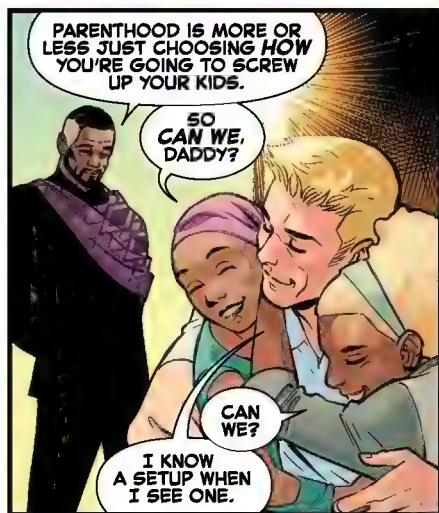
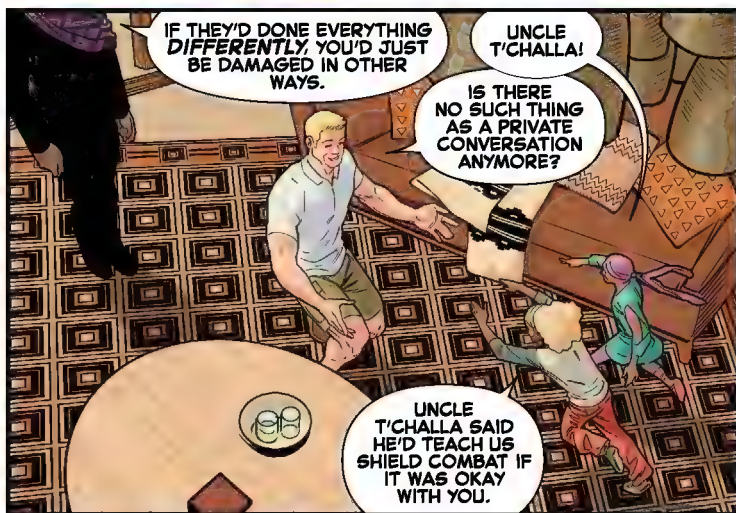
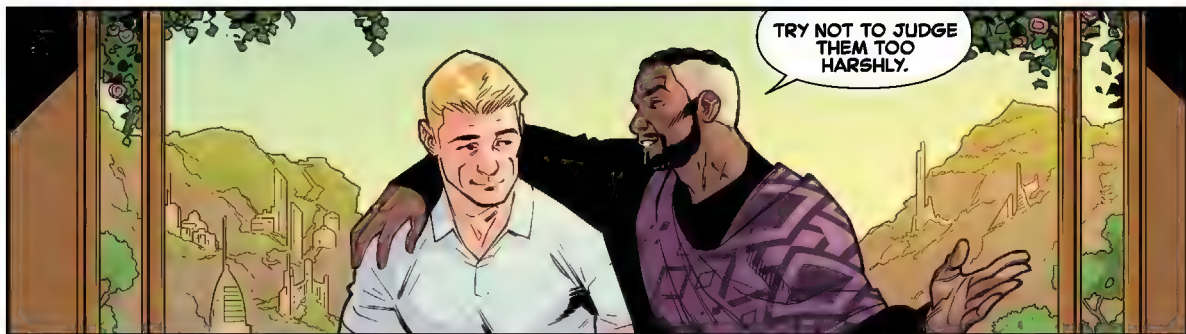
FINE,  
CANDA.  
EVERYTHING'S  
GOING TO  
BE FINE.

THERE'S  
SOMEONE  
HERE TO SEE  
YOU.











# DOOMSTADT, CAPITAL OF LATVERIA. 2004.

THANK  
YOU FOR  
COMING.

I HONESTLY  
DON'T SEE WHAT  
GOOD IT WILL DO,  
BUT I'M HAPPY  
TO LISTEN.

GALACTUSTAG!  
2 Yahren  
K. NACH 17 Tage

A PLANET IS BUT A FAINT ECHO OF  
THE **POWER COSMIC**. YOU COULD  
HARNESS ALL THE POWER ON EARTH.  
IT WOULD NOT EVEN BE ENOUGH  
TO SLOW HIS HAND.

GALACTUS  
IS COMING.

I KNOW.

HIS POWER CANNOT BE  
**MATCHED**. HE IS THE  
GREATEST HUNTER IN  
THE UNIVERSE.

BUT THE  
LIFE OF A HUNTER  
IS **PRECARIOUS**.  
ESPECIALLY SO FOR ONE  
WHO DEVOURS PLANETS  
AT A GREATER RATE  
THAN THE UNIVERSE  
PROVIDES  
THEM.

AS WE  
LONG AGO  
LEARNED ON THIS  
PLANET, WHAT YOU  
CAN GAIN FROM  
HUNTING...

...PALES IN  
COMPARISON  
TO WHAT YOU  
CAN GET FROM  
CONQUEST.

OR, AS  
WE TALIGHT  
OURSELVES  
TO CALL IT...  
**CIVILIZATION.**

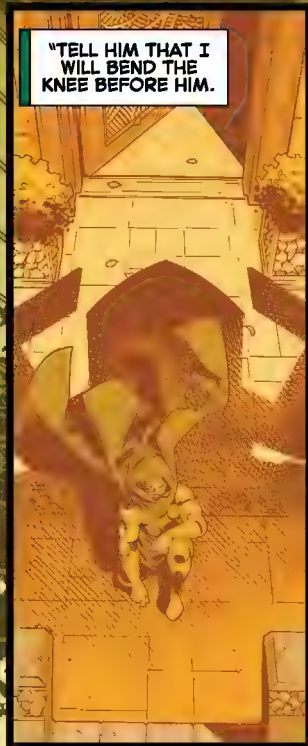




WHAT DO YOU  
PROPOSE?



TELL YOUR  
MASTER  
ABOUT ME.



"TELL HIM THAT I  
WILL BEND THE  
KNEE BEFORE HIM.

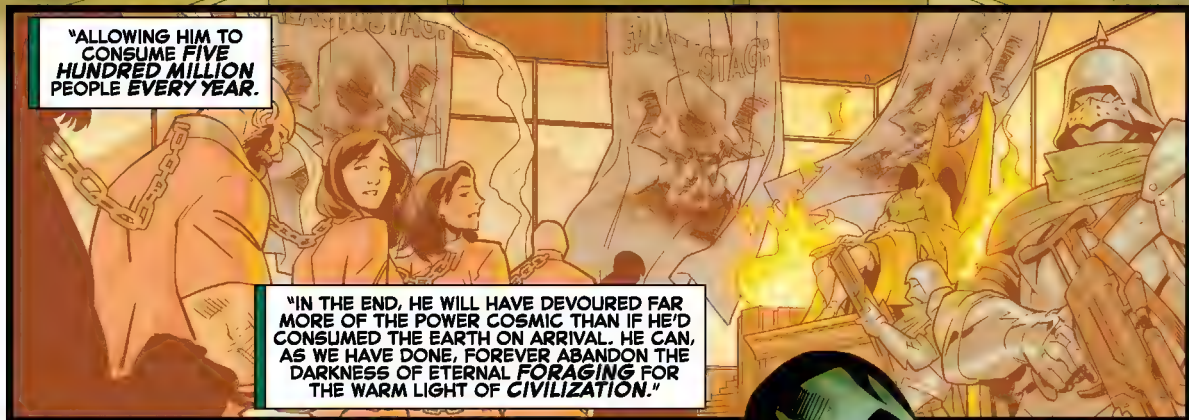
"AND RULE  
THE EARTH ON  
HIS BEHALF.  
HARVESTING  
IT.

"OF  
PEOPLE.

"OF  
CONSCIOUSNESS.



"IF YOUR MASTER WILL  
FOREGO THE ONE-TIME  
DESTRUCTION OF THIS  
PLANET, I WILL IMPLEMENT  
AN AGGRESSIVE  
BREEDING PROGRAM.



"ALLOWING HIM TO  
CONSUME FIVE  
HUNDRED MILLION  
PEOPLE EVERY YEAR.

"IN THE END, HE WILL HAVE DEVoured FAR  
MORE OF THE POWER COSMIC THAN IF HE'D  
CONSUMED THE EARTH ON ARRIVAL. HE CAN,  
AS WE HAVE DONE, FOREVER ABANDON THE  
DARKNESS OF ETERNAL FORAGING FOR  
THE WARM LIGHT OF CIVILIZATION."



CIVILIZATION BEING,  
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND  
DONE, MERELY ANOTHER  
WORD--

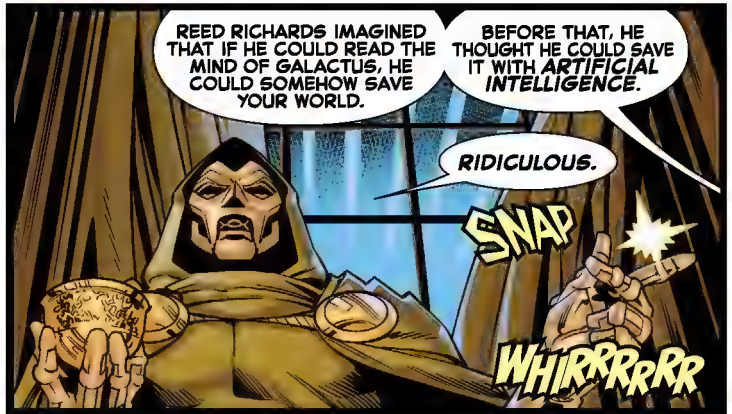
--FOR  
GRAZING.





AFTER MILLENNIA OF LISTENING TO BEINGS BEGGING IN VAIN FOR THEIR WORLDS TO BE SPARED--

--YOURS IS CERTAINLY A REFRESHING APPROACH.



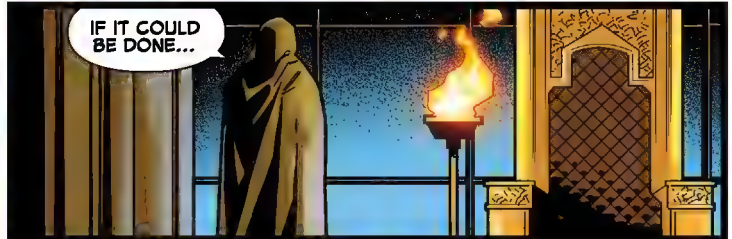
REED RICHARDS IMAGINED THAT IF HE COULD READ THE MIND OF GALACTUS, HE COULD SOMEHOW SAVE YOUR WORLD.

BEFORE THAT, HE THOUGHT HE COULD SAVE IT WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

RIDICULOUS.

SNAP

WHIRRRRR



IF IT COULD BE DONE...



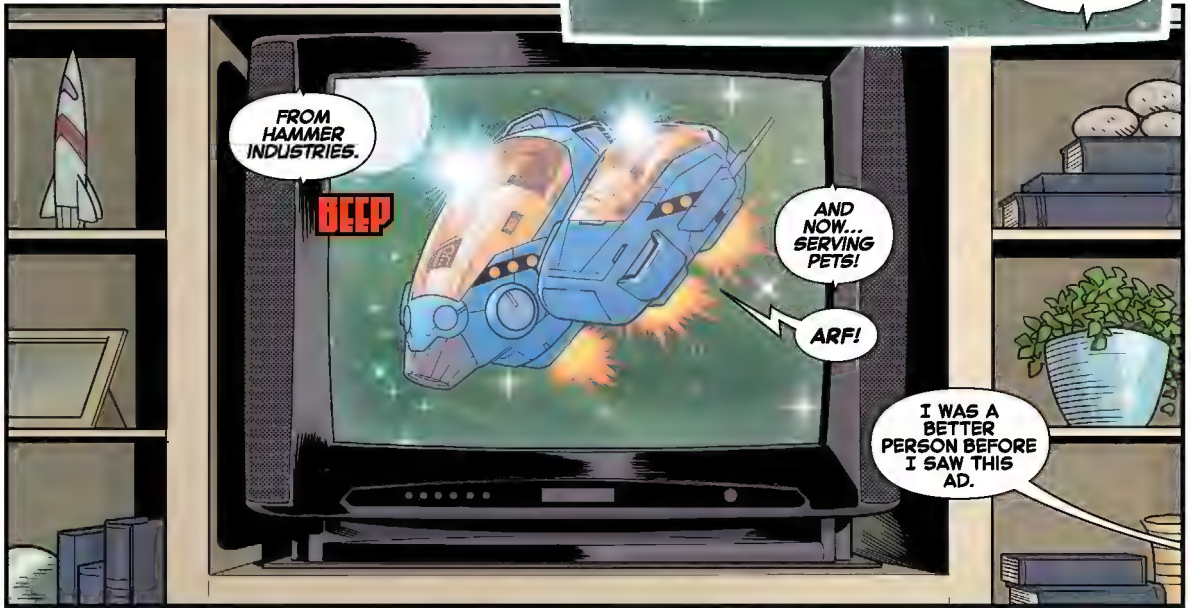
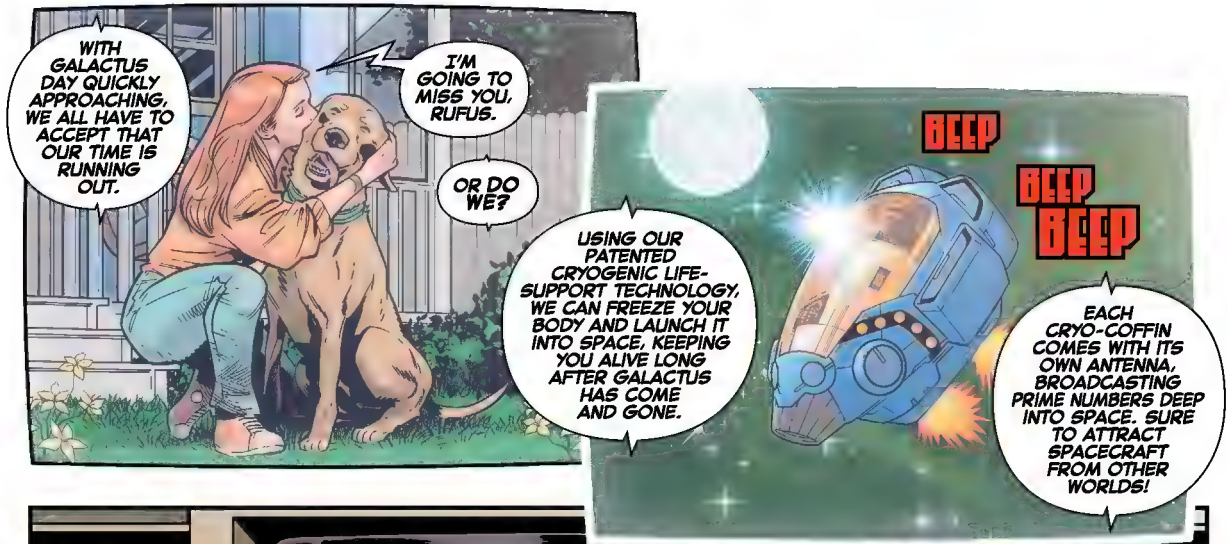
...I WOULD HAVE DONE IT BY NOW.



I ASSURE YOU... I AM NO REED RICHARDS.

NO, YOU CERTAINLY ARE NOT.









REED!  
WAKE UP!



WHAT...WHAT  
HAPPENED?

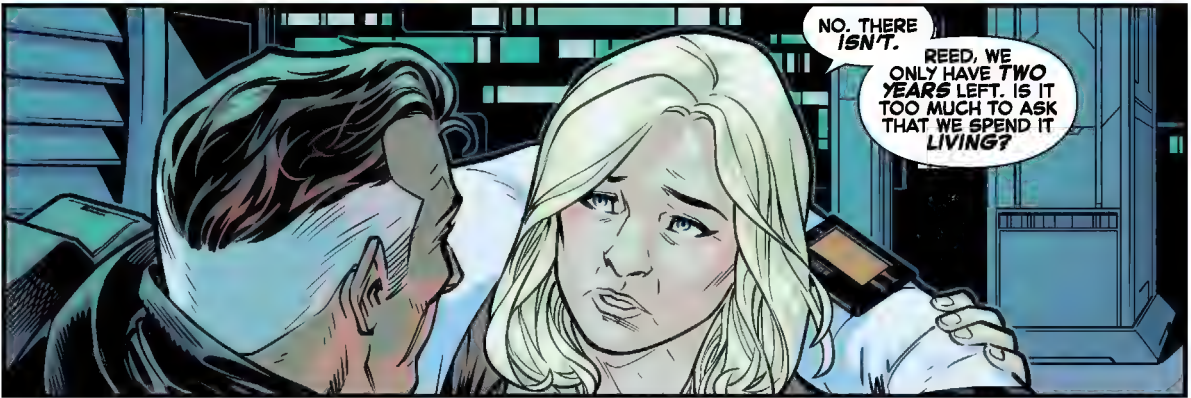
YOU  
ALMOST FRIED  
YOUR BRAIN.  
THAT'S  
WHAT!



YOU  
SHOULDN'T EVEN  
GO NEAR THAT THING  
WITHOUT SOMEONE  
REGULATING THE  
POWER!

WHAT  
IF THERE  
HAD BEEN A  
SURGE?

I'M SORRY...  
THERE'S JUST  
SO MUCH  
TO DO.



NO. THERE  
ISN'T.

REED, WE  
ONLY HAVE TWO  
YEARS LEFT. IS IT  
TOO MUCH TO ASK  
THAT WE SPEND IT  
LIVING?



NO.  
NO. IT'S  
NOT.





2005.

MOM AND DAD  
GOT BACK  
TOGETHER SOON  
AFTER THAT.

Runway

Runway

DRINK QUICK, BEN. I'M  
CLOSIN' THE BAR FOR GOOD  
AT MIDNIGHT. GONNA SPEND  
MY LAST FEW MONTHS WITH  
THE GRANDKIDS.

SOME MEN HAVE  
PRIESTS, I HAVE A  
BARTENDER.

UNFORTUNATELY,  
ALL GOOD THINGS  
MUST COME TO  
AN END.

DON'T I  
KNOW IT.

I DON'T THINK I  
EVER SAW DAD AS  
AT PEACE WITH  
THE WORLD...

WHAT  
WAS THAT  
GUY'S NAME?  
THE GUY WITH  
THE APES?

THE RED  
GHOST.

OH.  
THAT'S RIGHT!  
I'D ALMOST  
FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT HIM.

...AS WHEN  
HE GAVE UP  
TRYING TO  
SAVE IT.

WHY  
WOULD A  
GHOST HAVE  
APES?

IT MADE  
ZERO  
SENSE.

I CAN  
ONLY IMAGINE  
WHAT THAT  
LAIR SMELLED  
LIKE.

SOMETIMES, YOU  
DON'T REALIZE HOW  
HEAVY A BURDEN IS...

HERE,  
LET ME GET  
THIS.

NOBODY'S ACCEPTING  
CREDIT ANYMORE.  
THE CUTOFF WAS  
LAST FRIDAY.

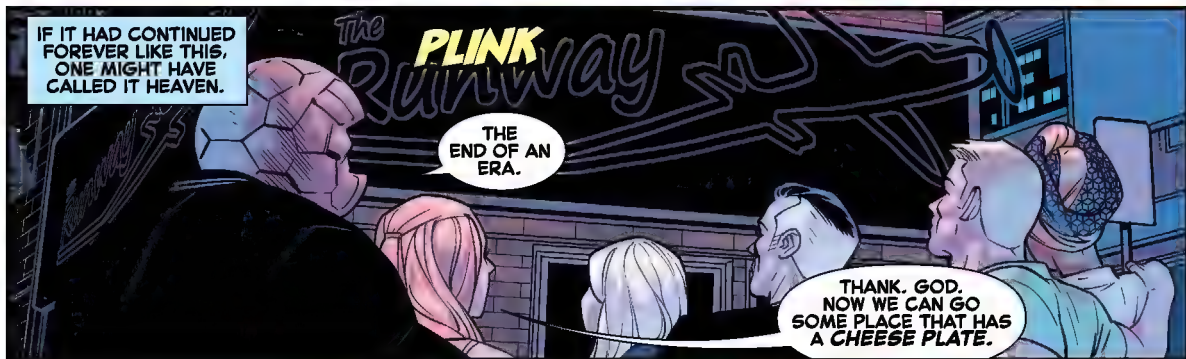
...UNTIL  
YOU PUT IT  
DOWN.

THIS  
SHOULD  
COVER IT.





IN THE MONTHS RUNNING UP TO GALACTUS DAY, THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMED TO EXIST IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.



IF IT HAD CONTINUED FOREVER LIKE THIS, ONE MIGHT HAVE CALLED IT HEAVEN.

THE  
END OF AN  
ERA.

THANK, GOD.  
NOW WE CAN GO  
SOME PLACE THAT HAS  
A CHEESE PLATE.



WHO WAS THAT MASKED HERO? THE ONE YOU SWORE WAS BILLY JOEL?

PIANO MAN.

OH,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
HA HA!

IS YOUR DAD OKAY?  
I THINK HE MIGHT  
HAVE HAD TOO  
MUCH TO DRINK.

NAH. HE'S OKAY.



YOU'RE  
JUST NOT USED  
TO SEEING HIM  
HAPPY.



THERE'S A POINT AT  
WHICH WE SACRIFICE  
SO MUCH OF  
OURSELVES THAT WE  
FORGET WHO WE  
REALLY ARE.



2006.

THE DAY  
WE'VE LONG  
DREADED IS  
FINALLY UPON  
US.

OBSERVATORIES  
HAVE CONFIRMED  
THAT A LARGE METALLIC  
OBJECT HAS COME  
INTO ORBIT AROUND  
THE EARTH.

TELL YOUR  
LOVED ONES,  
OR WHOEVER YOU  
HAVE AROUND YOU,  
HOW MUCH THEY  
MEAN TO  
YOU.

**GALACTUS  
DAY**  
00:00:00



ART,  
FAMILY, RELIGION,  
WHATEVER YOU CLING  
TO, IN THE END, IT IS  
ALL THE SAME--

--A PRAYER  
THAT WE WILL BE  
MISSED WHEN  
WE'RE GONE.

IT'S  
BEEN A  
GOOD LIFE,  
EDNA.

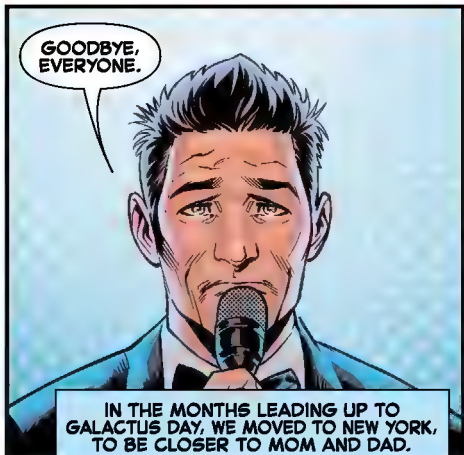


WE'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO'S  
HELPED THE HUMAN RACE SURVIVE  
TO THIS POINT.



EVEN THOUGH ALL  
RECORD AND MEMORY OF  
YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
IS ABOUT TO BE FOREVER  
DESTROYED, I HOPE YOU  
KNOW HOW MUCH IT  
MATTERED.

GOODBYE,  
EVERYONE.



IN THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO  
GALACTUS DAY, WE MOVED TO NEW YORK,  
TO BE CLOSER TO MOM AND DAD.

SO WE COULD ALL  
BE TOGETHER...  
WHEN IT HAPPENED.

HE'S  
HERE.

MOM?  
DAD?







SO THAT  
WE COULD BE  
READY.

I FEEL LIKE  
I ONLY JUST  
BEGAN TO  
LIVE.

AND  
NOW IT'S  
OVER?



BUT HOW DO YOU  
PREPARE FOR THE  
INCONCEIVABLE?

HOW IS  
THIS RIGHT?  
HOW IS THIS  
FAIR?

WE'D KNOWN FOR  
DECADES THAT THIS  
DAY WAS COMING.



AND NOW THAT  
IT WAS HERE,  
WE COULDN'T  
BELIEVE IT.

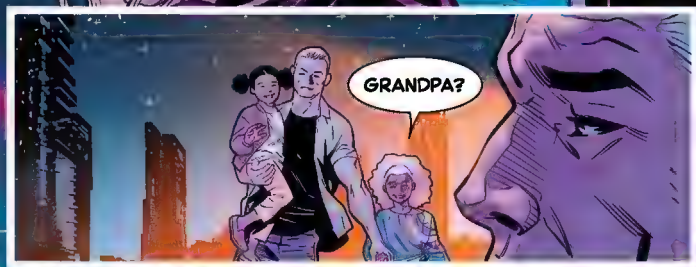
GOODBYE,  
MY LOVE.



THE HOUR  
OF DESTRUCTION  
IS UPON YOU.  
SO I MUST  
LEAVE.

BUT  
BEFORE I GO,  
I GIVE YOU THIS  
ONE FINAL CHANCE  
TO ACCEPT MY  
MASTER'S  
OFFER.

TO SAVE  
YOUR WORLD...  
AND SERVE...  
AS HIS  
HERALD.



GRANDPA?





ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT.

REED!  
NO!



TELL  
GALACTUS...

I'LL  
BE HIS  
HERALD.

PLEASE,  
REED...YOU  
CAN'T.

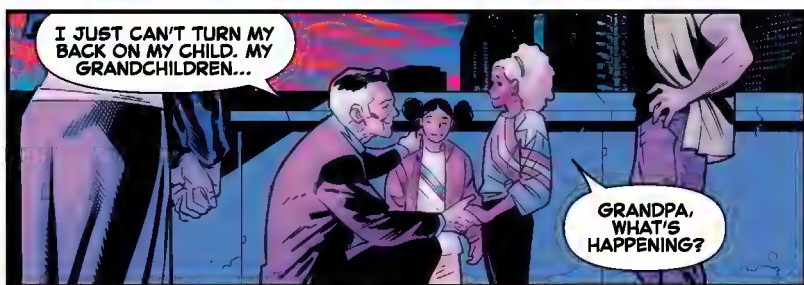
DAD,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO--



FRANKLIN,  
ALL YOUR LIFE, WE  
THWARTED YOUR  
POTENTIAL.

WE SHUTTLED  
YOU BACK AND FORTH.  
WE SENT YOU AWAY IN  
THE HOPE THAT OTHERS  
COULD CONTROL YOUR  
POWERS WHEN WE  
COULD NOT.

I FEEL  
LIKE THE LEAST  
I OWE YOU IS  
A LIFE.



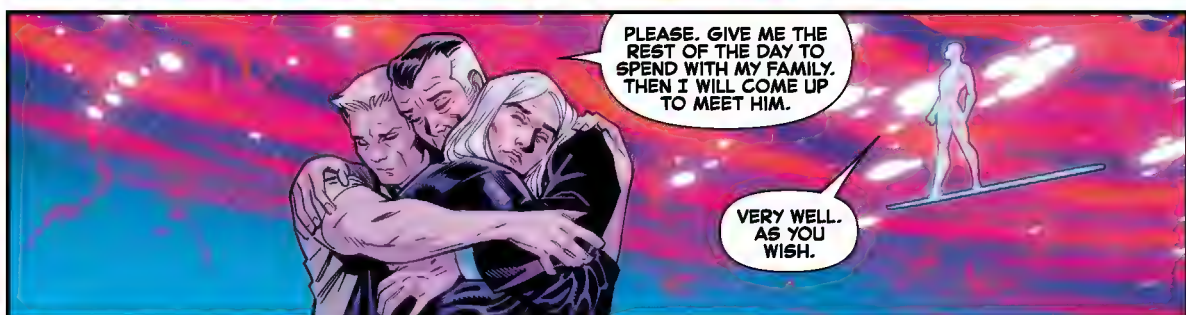
I JUST CAN'T TURN MY  
BACK ON MY CHILD. MY  
GRANDCHILDREN...

GRANDPA,  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?



I UNDERSTAND.

MY MASTER  
WILL DESCEND  
SHORTLY.



PLEASE. GIVE ME THE  
REST OF THE DAY TO  
SPEND WITH MY FAMILY.  
THEN I WILL COME UP  
TO MEET HIM.

VERY WELL.  
AS YOU  
WISH.





THE NEW  
HERALD  
APPROACHES,  
MASTER.



GOOD.  
YOU HAVE  
DONE WELL, MY  
SERVANT.

AFTER ALL  
THESE MILLENNIA,  
AFTER ALL THE  
WORLDS THAT HAVE  
PASSED BETWEEN  
US...



I GIVE YOU  
ONE FINAL  
GIFT...



...DEATH.

FOR  
THERE IS NO  
REWARD FOR  
SERVICE...



...BUT  
IT'S END.



ZENN-LA...





YOU ARE  
ON TIME,  
I SEE.

AN  
AUSPICIOUS  
BEGINNING TO  
YOUR NEW LIFE AS  
MY HERALD.

THE CLOSER  
YOU DRAW, THE  
**STRONGER** OUR  
CONNECTION  
BECOMES.

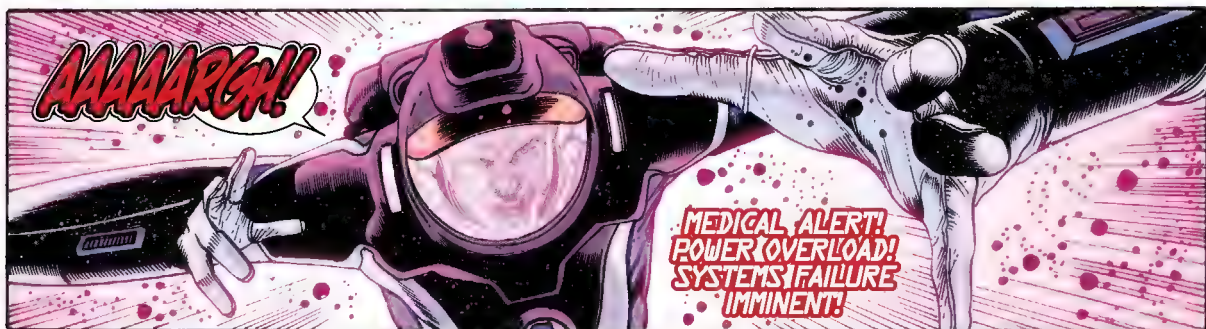
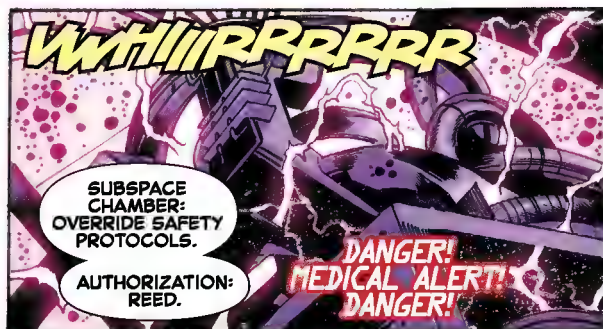
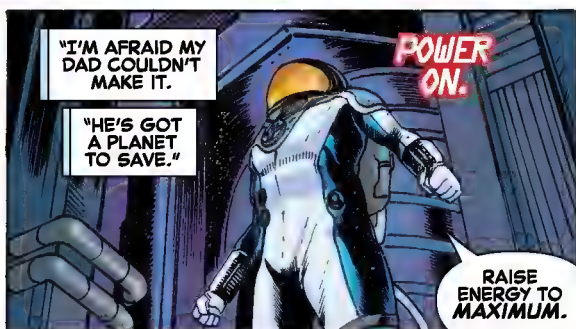
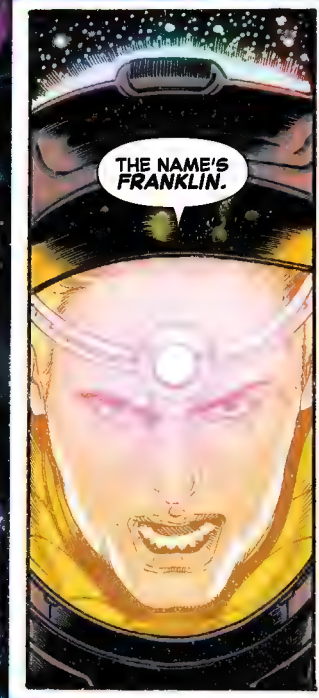
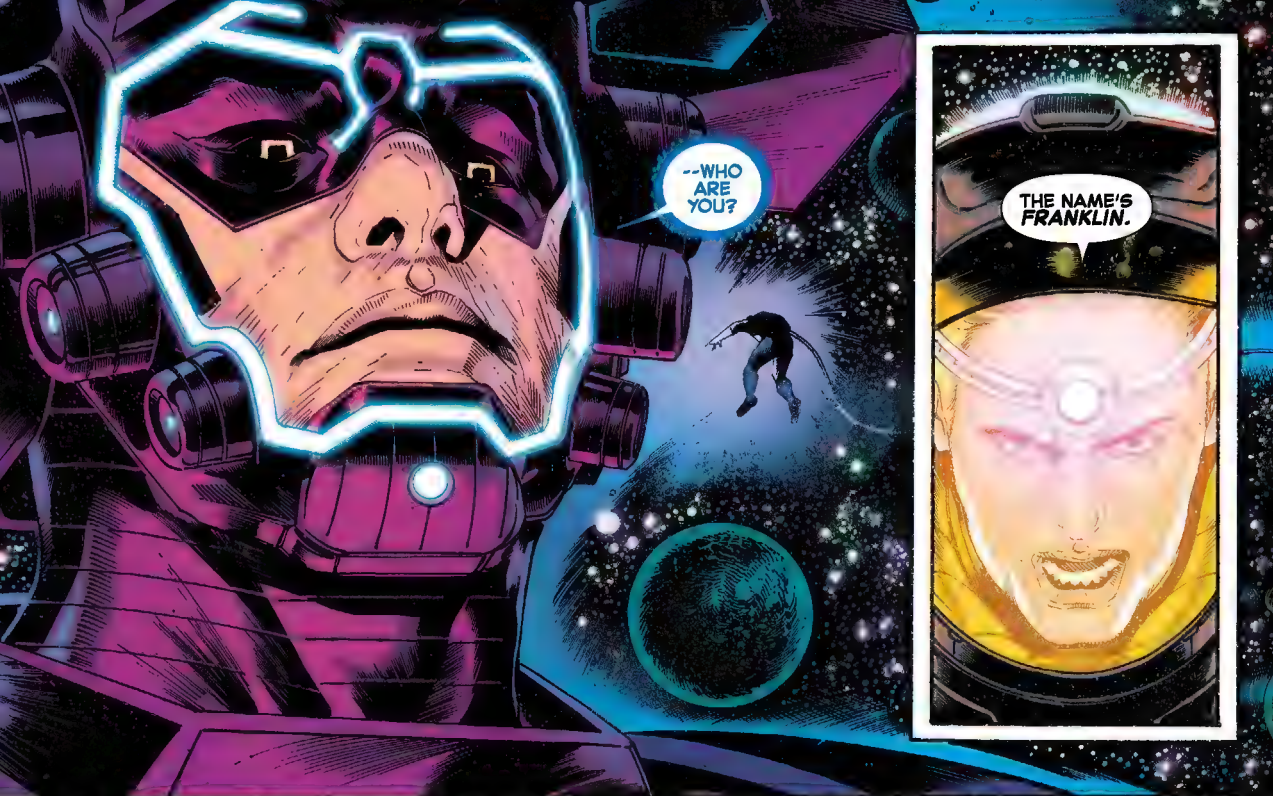
MASTER  
AND SERVANT...  
OUR MINDS  
FOREVER  
JOINED.

SHED THE HOLLOW  
SHELL OF YOUR MORTAL  
WEAKNESS AND PREPARE  
TO ACCEPT THE POWER  
**COSMIC.**

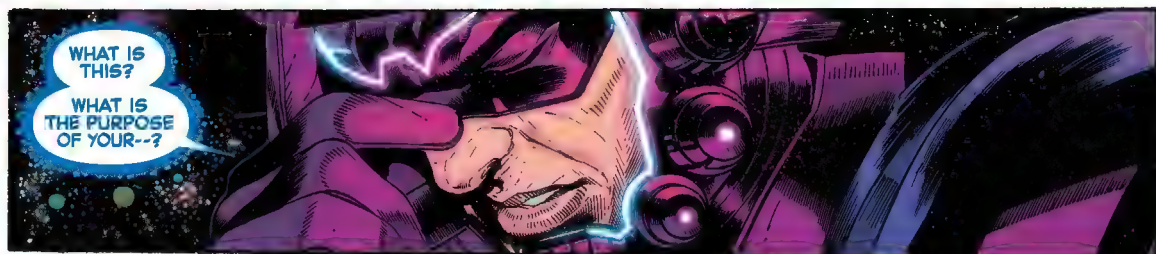
I CAN  
FEEL YOUR  
MIND. WE ARE  
NOW AS  
ONE.

YOUR  
SERVICE  
BEGINS NOW,  
MY--









WHAT IS THIS?  
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR--?



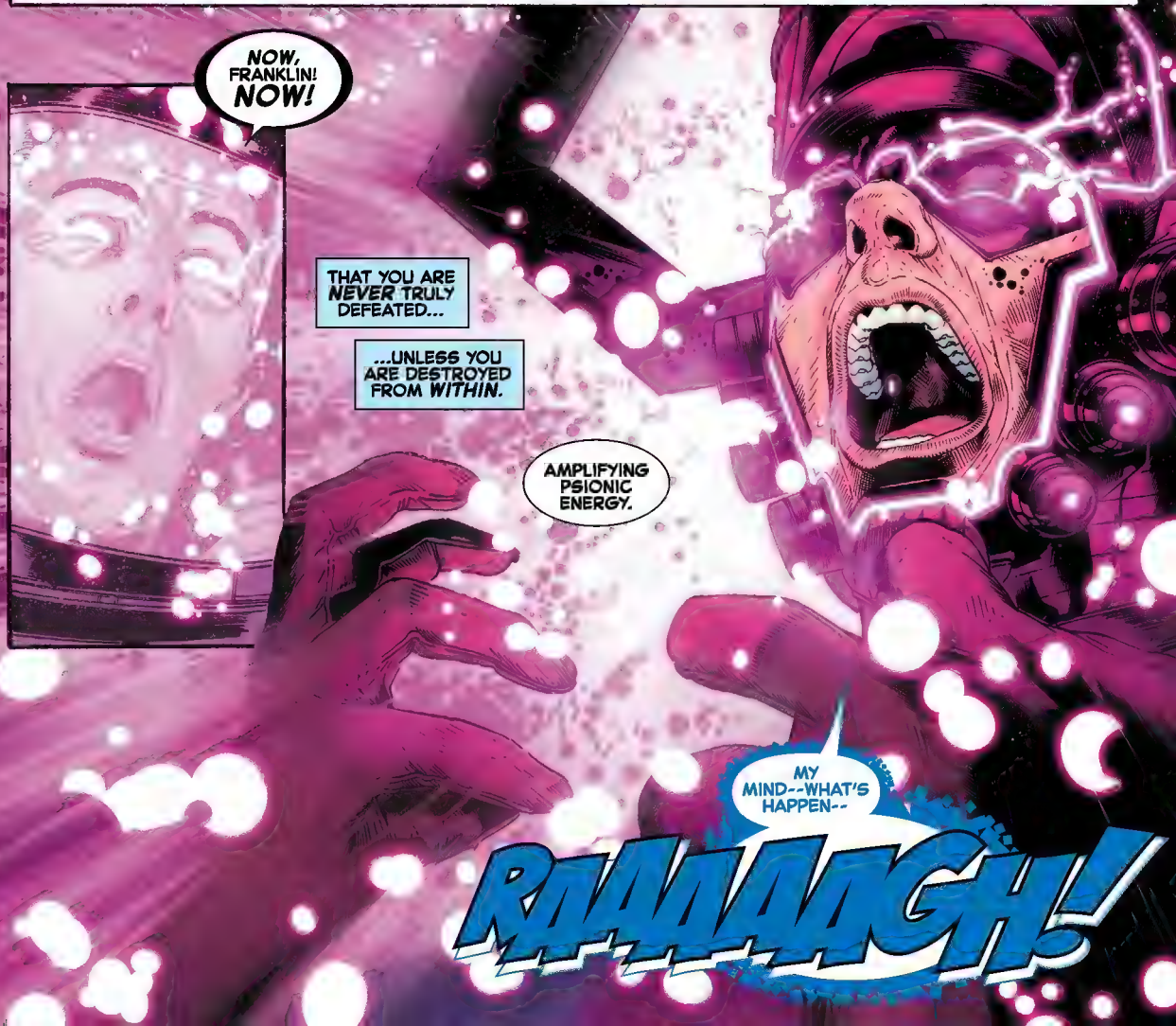
**DANGER!  
MEDICAL ALERT!  
POWER OVERLOAD!**

I'M...  
I'M AT FULL POWER.



WE LIVE BY A SIMPLE PHILOSOPHY IN THIS FAMILY.

I CAN FEEL YOU. I CAN FEEL YOU BOTH.



NOW, FRANKLIN!  
NOW!

THAT YOU ARE NEVER TRULY DEFEATED...

...UNLESS YOU ARE DESTROYED FROM WITHIN.

AMPLIFYING PSIONIC ENERGY.

MY MIND--WHAT'S HAPPEN--

**RRRAAANGH!**





AND VICTORY COMES NOT FROM SURVIVING...

YOU'VE BETRAYED ME!

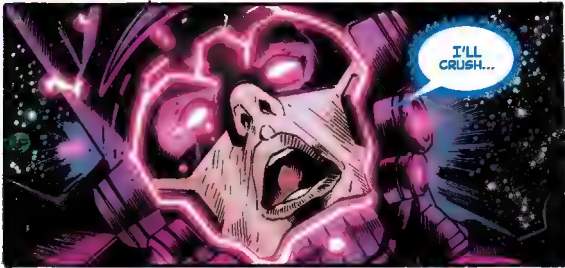
AND NOW YOU WILL DIE. ALL OF YOU.

...BUT IN REMAINING OURSELVES.

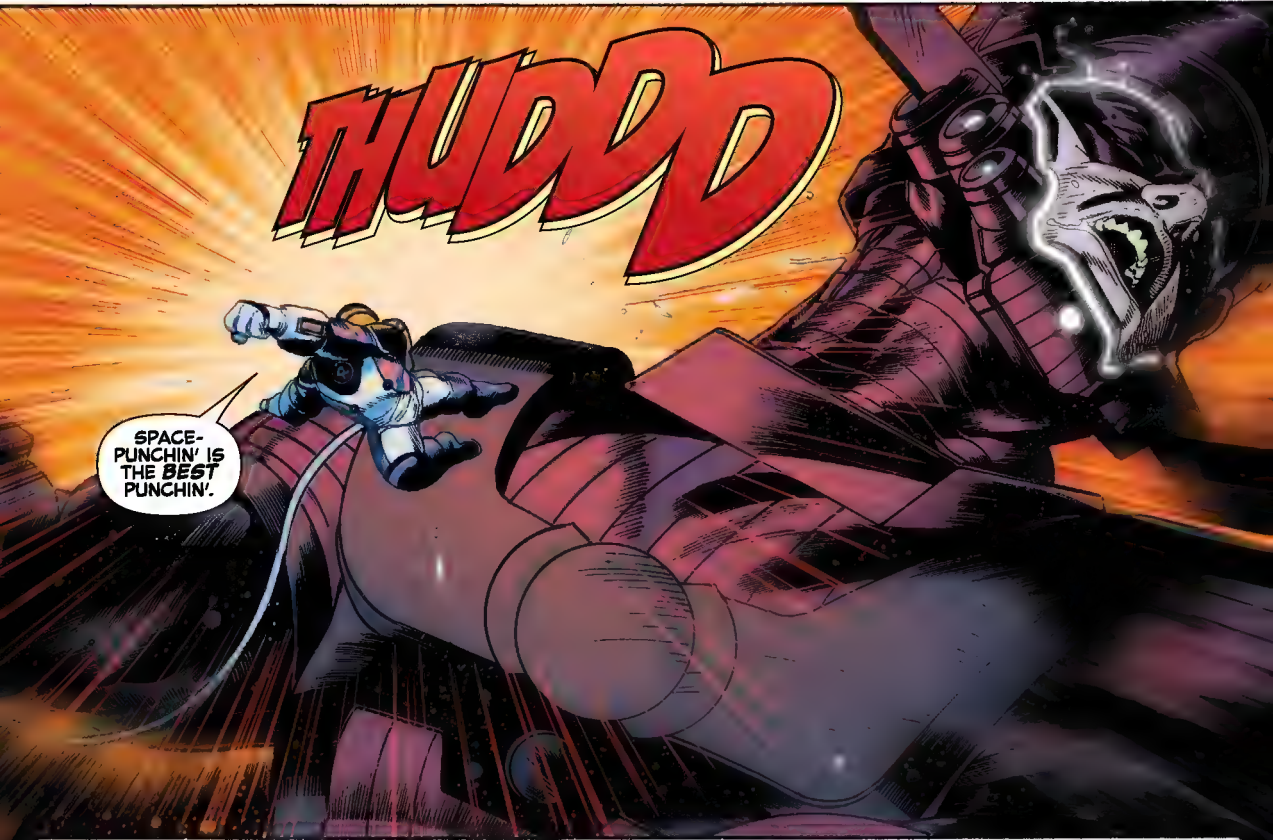
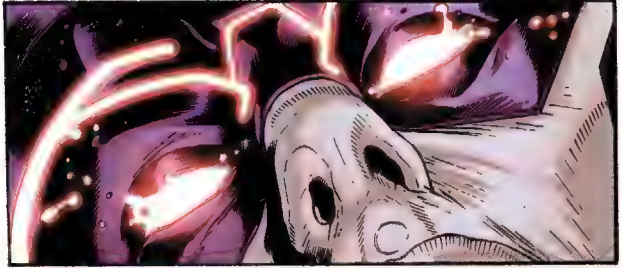
MOM!

**FZZWAAAT**

I SHALL CRUSH YOU.

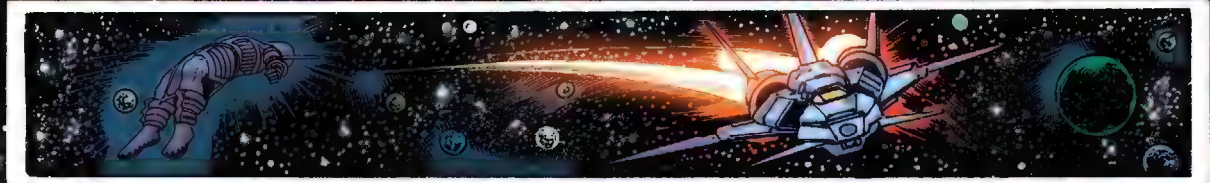


I'LL CRUSH...



**THUDD**

SPACE-PUNCHIN' IS THE BEST PUNCHIN'.





2009.

THE POWER OVERLOAD  
IN THE SUBSPACE  
CHAMBER LEFT MY  
FATHER IN A PERMANENT  
VEGETATIVE STATE.

I'M SORRY.  
HE'S STILL  
NOT SHOWING  
ANY SIGNS OF  
IMPROVEMENT.

HAVING BEEN SAVED FROM  
GALACTUS, THE WORLD  
PICKED RIGHT BACK UP  
WHERE IT LEFT OFF.



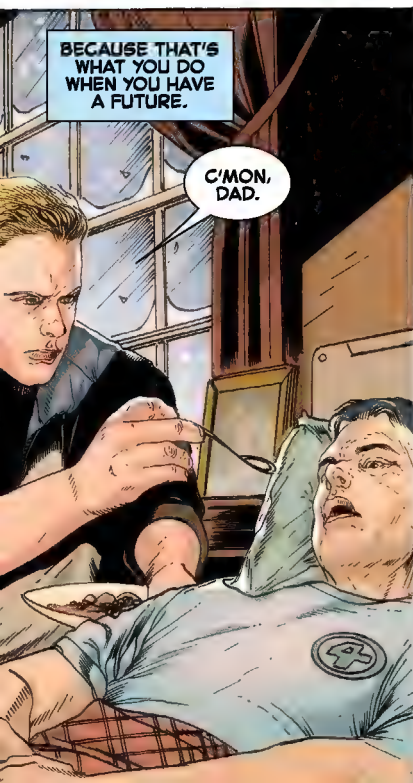
PEOPLE ONCE  
AGAIN FOUND  
THINGS TO  
FIGHT OVER.



AND  
REASONS  
TO HOPE.

IS IT FULLY  
ACCESSIBLE?

HOW  
BIG ARE THE  
BATHTUBS?



BECAUSE THAT'S  
WHAT YOU DO  
WHEN YOU HAVE  
A FUTURE.

C'MON,  
DAD.



IT'S EASY TO GET SO  
WRAPPED UP IN WHAT'S  
COMING NEXT THAT WE  
DON'T TAKE TIME TO  
APPRECIATE WHAT'S  
JUST HAPPENED.



WE FORGET  
SOMETIMES.





WE FORGET  
HOW LUCKY WE  
ARE JUST TO  
BE HERE.

WE  
FORGET...

Johnny Storm  
1945 - 1995

...THAT LIFE  
IS GOOD,  
EVEN WHEN  
IT'S NOT.

I MISS  
YOU, UNCLE  
JOHNNY.

HOW DID WE EVER  
FORGET THAT THIS  
WAS SUPPOSED TO  
BE A PARTY?

THAT EVERYTHING  
WORTH HAVING  
COMES FROM  
EACH OTHER?

I LOVE  
YOU.

SOMETHING MY DAD  
ONCE SAID TO ME...

THE SKY EXISTS SO  
THAT WE HAVE NO  
CHOICE BUT TO LOOK  
UP ONCE IN A WHILE.

SOMETIMES,  
ALL WE NEED IS  
A REMINDER.



# FANTASTIC FOUR

*Life Story* 6 The '10s

LATVERIA





**SOKOVIA.  
2014.**

ONCE THE THREAT  
OF GALACTUS WAS  
GONE, OUR GLOBAL  
UNITY FELL APART.

OR, PERHAPS,  
IT NEVER EXISTED.  
PERHAPS ALL OUR  
IMMINENT DESTRUCTION  
REPRESENTED WAS  
A SHORT BREAK  
FROM OURSELVES.

WELCOME  
MY NEW  
SUBJECTS TO  
THE EMPIRE  
OF DOOM.

THEN  
TAKE THEM  
TO THE  
CAMPS.

DOOM HAD  
SPENT THE  
PEACE BUILDING  
AN ARMY OF  
DOOMBOTS.

AS HE BEGAN CONQUERING  
HIS NEIGHBORS, MOST  
CHOSE TO IGNORE WHAT  
WAS HAPPENING BECAUSE  
IT WAS HAPPENING TO  
NATIONS THEY NEVER  
PARTICULARLY CARED FOR.

BECAUSE THE  
TRUTH IS...PEOPLE  
NEVER TRULY RALLY  
TO MEET A COMMON  
THREAT...SO LONG  
AS THEY DESPISE  
EACH OTHER.





NO CRISIS IS SO GREAT THAT IT WILL CHANGE WHO WE ARE.

TODAY IS THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

The Boy We Had to Offer

WHICH, I SUPPOSE, IS THE REAL CRISIS.

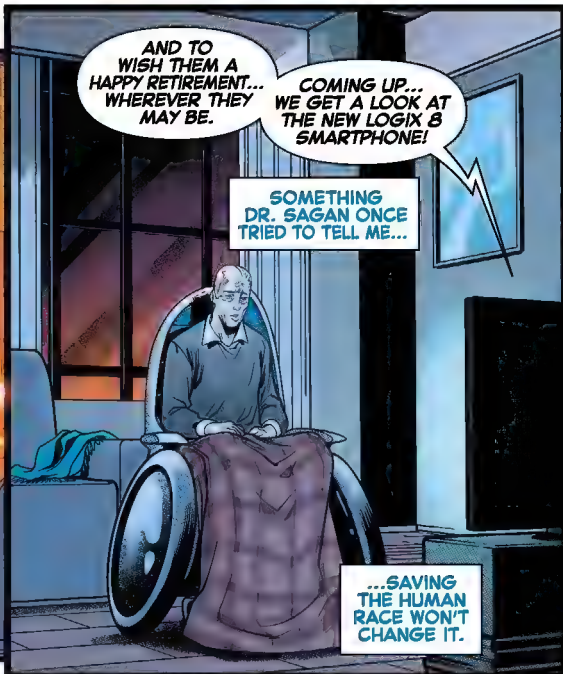


LIKE MANY OTHER HEROES OF THEIR GENERATION, THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE GONE INTO RETIREMENT.

ANOTHER CARROT JUICE, MR. ROGERS?



SO WE WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE!



AND TO WISH THEM A HAPPY RETIREMENT... WHEREVER THEY MAY BE.

COMING UP... WE GET A LOOK AT THE NEW LOGIX 8 SMARTPHONE!

SOMETHING DR. SAGAN ONCE TRIED TO TELL ME...

...SAVING THE HUMAN RACE WON'T CHANGE IT.



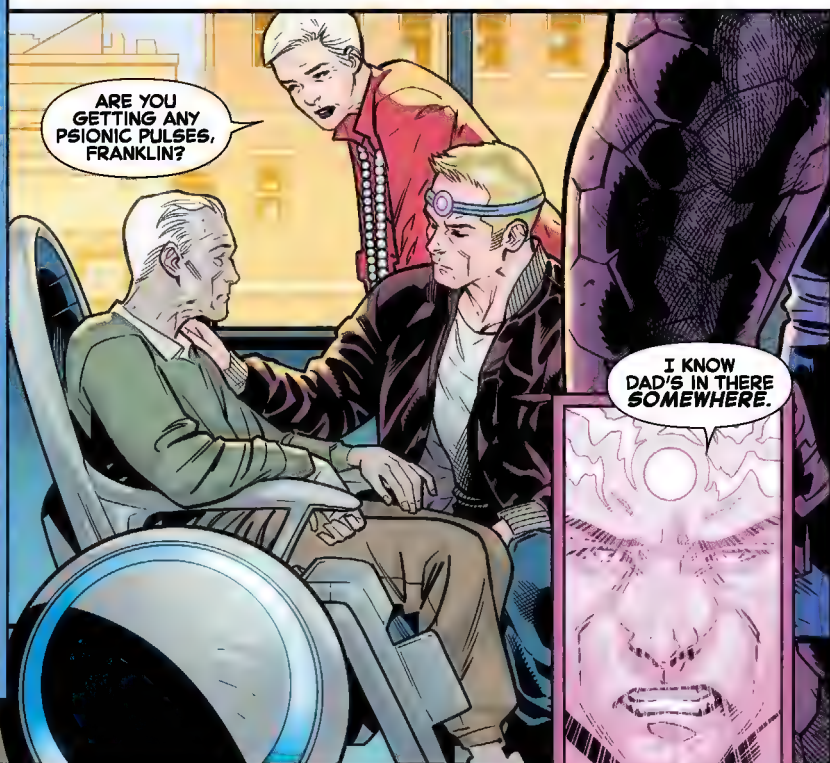
BUT CHANGING THE HUMAN RACE MIGHT BE WHAT SAVES IT.





HOW'S  
DOC  
DOIN'?

THE  
SAME, I'M  
AFRAID.



ARE YOU  
GETTING ANY  
PSIONIC PULSES,  
FRANKLIN?

I KNOW  
DAD'S IN THERE  
SOMEWHERE.



BUT I  
CAN'T REACH  
HIM.



I'M  
SORRY,  
REED.



DON'T  
WORRY, MOM.  
I'LL KEEP  
TRYING.

THERE'S  
GOT TO BE  
SOME WAY  
TO REACH  
HIM.







# SYMKARIA.

AS HEROES, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT HUMANITY'S BEST. BUT IN A WAY, WE REPRESENT ITS GREATEST WEAKNESS--

--ITS NEED TO CONSTANTLY BE SAVED FROM ITSELF.

WE NEED TO FALL BACK. THIS CITY IS TOAST.

I DON'T THINK I DESTROYED A SINGLE DOOMBOT.

IT'S NOT A CONTEST, SPIDER-MAN. THAT SAID, I DESTROYED FIVE.

IS THAT GOOD?

NO. I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED TOUGHER--

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS EVEN MADE OF?

THWIT

ZWASH



# LATVERIA.

THE THING THAT,  
IN THE END, WILL  
PROBABLY DOOM  
US ALL--

--IS THAT THE PEOPLE  
WITH REAL POWER ARE  
LESS INTERESTED IN  
STOPPING THE END  
OF THE WORLD--

PLEASE  
EXTEND MY  
THANKS TO THE  
WORLD BANK,  
MR....

KLAUE.  
ULYSSES  
KLAUE.

AND THE  
THANKS IS  
NICE, BUT WE'RE  
REALLY IN IT  
FOR THE  
MONEY.

--THAN  
PROFITING  
FROM IT.

THIS WASN'T  
AN EASY  
LOAN TO  
MAKE.

THE AMOUNT OF  
VIBRANIUM WE'VE LENT  
YOU IS WORTH THE  
COMBINED GROSS  
DOMESTIC PRODUCT  
OF SEVERAL  
NATIONS.

THEN  
I SUPPOSE  
IT'S A GOOD  
THING--

--THAT I  
HAVE SEVERAL  
NATIONS.



# STARK RETIREMENT HAVEN FOR HEROES.

SUE STORM?! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

CAN I GET YOU A CARROT JUICE?

I'D LOVE ONE.

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TO GRANDPA TOWN?

WHY DO PEOPLE NORMALLY CALL ON CAPTAIN AMERICA?

THAT... THAT'S NOT WHO I AM ANYMORE.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH DOOM... THIS IS AN ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK SITUATION, STEVE. SOME OF US ARE TALKING ABOUT COMING OUT OF RETIREMENT.

I DON'T KNOW... IF THE YOUNG BUCKS CAN'T STOP HIM, THEN WHAT'S THE PUDDING BRIGADE SUPPOSED TO DO?

THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE DONE. I'M OLD ENOUGH FOR AL ROKER TO CALL ME ON MY BIRTHDAY. CAN'T WE JUST SIT THIS ONE OUT?

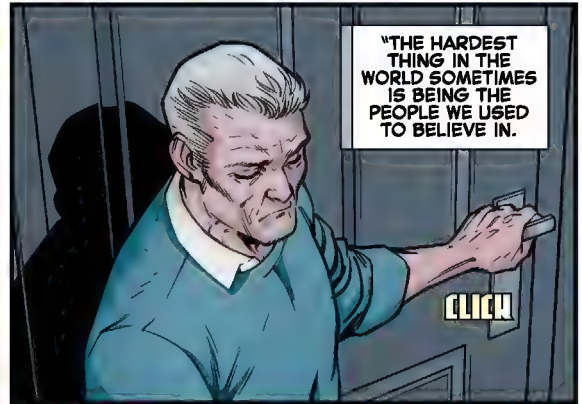
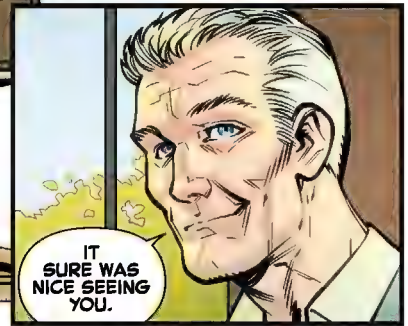
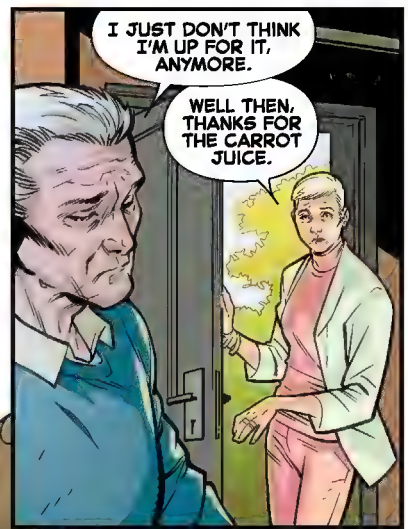
"WE COULD TRY."

"WE COULD SIT ON THE SIDELINES AND HOPE THAT EVERYTHING TURNS OUT ALL RIGHT WITHOUT US."

READY THE DOOMBOTS.

"BUT ONE THING I'VE LEARNED WATCHING DOOM AND GUYS LIKE HIM IS THAT THERE'S A TIPPING POINT."







**2016.**

THE WORST PART  
OF BEING LIKE THIS  
IS HOW THEY LOOK  
AT ME. THE PITY  
IN THEIR EYES.

LIKE I'M  
SOME SORT OF  
PRISONER.

MY BODY *IS* A  
PRISON, I SUPPOSE.  
BUT THEN, SO IS  
EVERYONE ELSE'S.

WE'RE ONLY  
EVER TRULY  
FREE INSIDE  
OUR MINDS.

THOUGH IT'S A  
FREEDOM USUALLY  
SQUANDERED ON  
FEAR AND REGRET.

SO PERHAPS  
THE MIND IS A  
PRISON TOO.

GOODBYE,  
REED.

A DUNGEON  
WHERE THE  
JAILER FORGOT  
TO LOCK  
THE DOOR.

SO WE  
CLOSE IT  
FOR HIM.



WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME RELIVING THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST, WONDERING WHAT WE COULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY.

WHAT WE *SHOULD* HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY.

WHEN THE ANSWER IS THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE WASTED SO MUCH TIME TORTURING OURSELVES WITH QUESTIONS LIKE THOSE.

HELLO?  
REED?

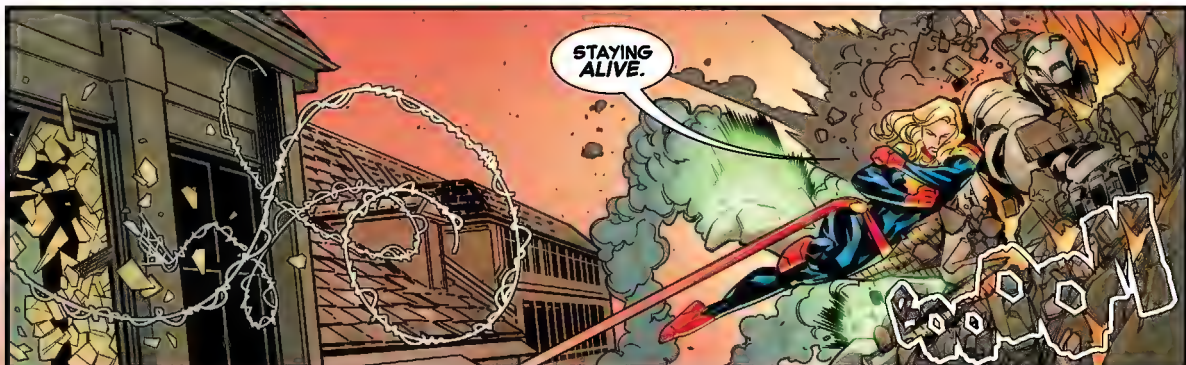
JOHNNY?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

YOU  
TELL  
ME.

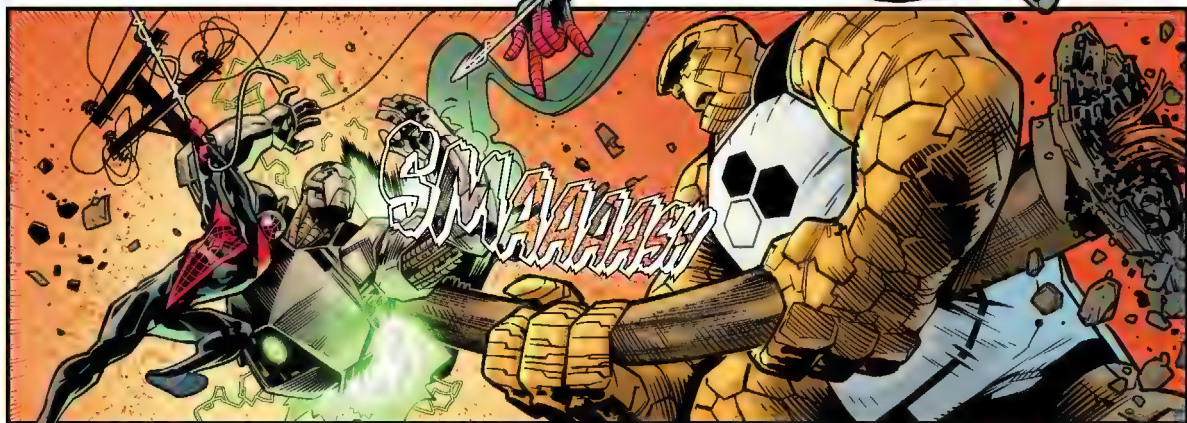
THIS IS YOUR  
IMAGINATION.

SO...  
UH...  
...WHADDYA  
WANT?













UP TOP,  
BROOKLYN.

OW--  
PRETTY  
SURE THAT  
HAND IS  
BROKEN.

WE  
DID IT. NEW  
HEROES AND  
OLD.

FOR THE  
MOMENT,  
ANYWAY,  
SHURI.

THE  
IMPORTANT  
THING  
IS WE PROVED  
THEY AREN'T  
INVINCIBLE--

--BY  
SHOWING THAT  
WE AREN'T  
AFRAID.



**LATVERIA.**

MY DOOMBOTS...  
DEFEATED?!

THE HONOR  
OF LATVERIA  
HAS BEEN  
STAINED!

FIND THE RANKING  
GENERAL AND HAVE HIM  
EXECUTED!

YES, YOUR  
HIGHNESS!

THEN HAVE YOURSELF  
EXECUTED TOO.

YES, MY  
LIEGE!

AND YOU,  
THINKER!

YOU CALL  
YOURSELF A  
ROBOTICS  
GENIUS?!

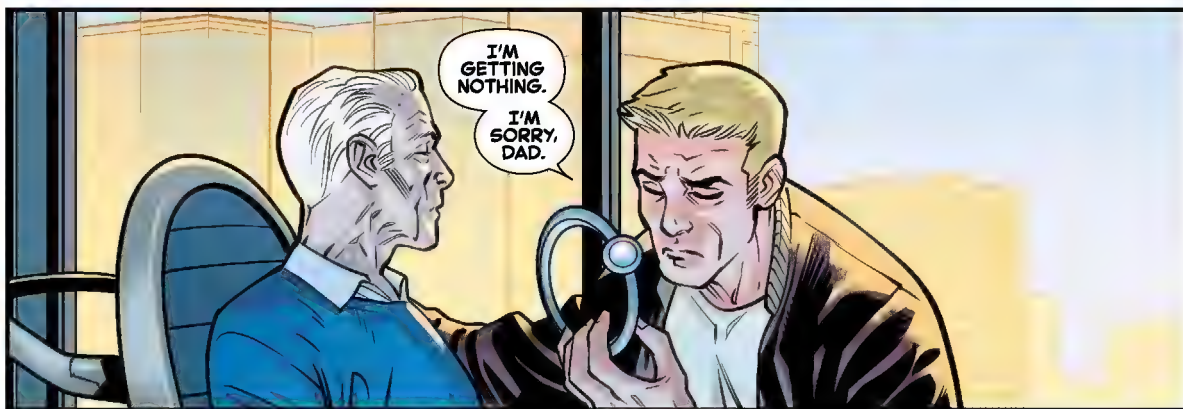
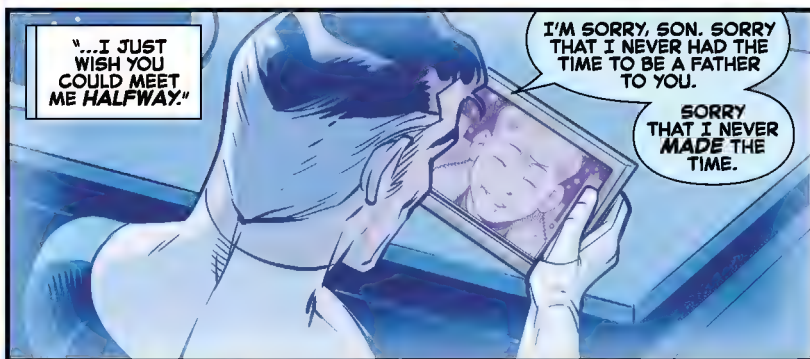
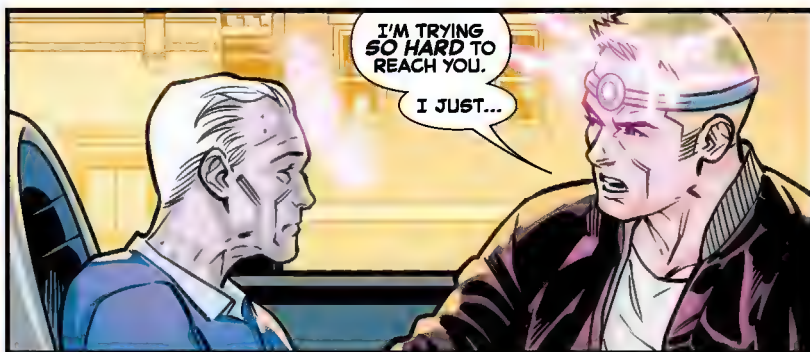
YOUR SERVICES  
ARE NO LONGER  
REQUIRED!

CLICK

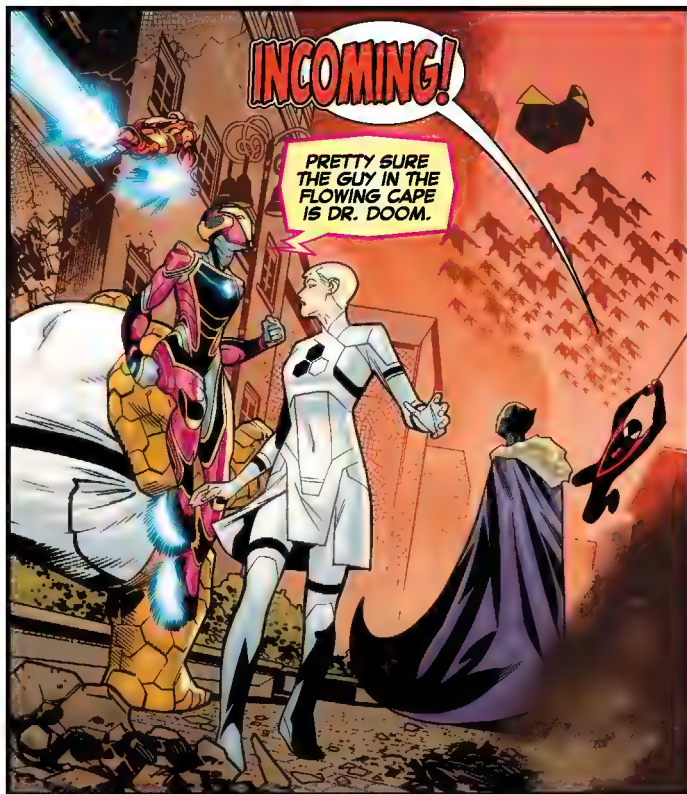












**INCOMING!**

PRETTY SURE  
THE GUY IN THE  
FLOWING CAPE  
IS DR. DOOM.



WOW. THAT  
IS SO MET  
GALA. WHERE DO  
YOU EVEN GET  
A CAPE LIKE  
THAT?

SUE  
STORM! IT'S  
BEEN A LONG  
TIME.

HE WAS  
MY HUSBAND'S  
OLD LAB  
ASSISTANT.  
YOU KNOW.



WHAT?!  
NO!

I WASN'T  
HIS ASSIST--  
WE WERE  
EQUALS!

GAH!  
ENOUGH  
OF THIS!

I'VE  
WAITED A  
LONG TIME  
FOR THIS  
DAY!

TO EVEN  
A SCORE  
LONG IN NEED  
OF SETTLING.



GEEZ WITH PEAS.  
ARE ALL THOSE  
DOOMBOTS  
FER US?

SEEMS LIKE  
OVERKILL.

PROBABLY  
JUST ABOUT THE  
RIGHT AMOUNT  
OF KILL.  
ACTUALLY.



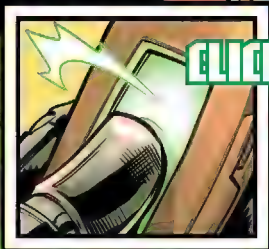
WHATEVER MISTAKES IT MIGHT MAKE ALONG THE WAY, NATURE EVENTUALLY CORRECTS ITSELF.

IN THE END, THE PREDATOR PREVAILS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT DOES.

THE WEAK, WITH THEIR GUILT, THEIR EQUIVOCATION... THEIR NEED TO CONVINCE THEMSELVES OF THEIR DECENCY...CAN NEVER QUITE BRING THEMSELVES TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY.

BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BUILD A NEW WORLD--

HE'S GONNA MAKE US LISTEN TO A SPEECH FIRST, ISN'T HE?



--AND THAT IS UPON THE ASHES OF THE OLD.

FZOOOOOON

JUST SO YOU ALL KNOW... I CAN'T KEEP THIS SHIELD UP...

FZAAAASH

KATHOOOUM

...MUCH LONGER.

THEN THAT MEANS--

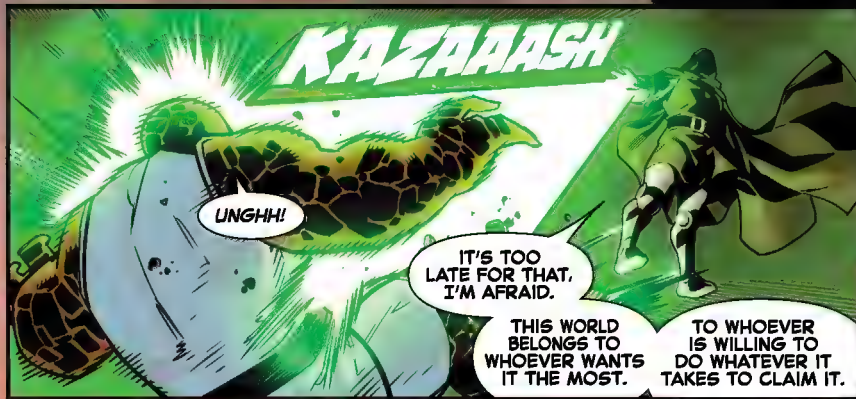
UNGH!

KZOOOSH





--IT'S CLOBBERIN'--



UNGHH!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT, I'M AFRAID.

THIS WORLD BELONGS TO WHOEVER WANTS IT THE MOST.

TO WHOEVER IS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO CLAIM IT.



YOU'RE ALL SO YOUNG.

IT'S A SHAME YOU'LL NEVER LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT THIS WORLD CAN BECOME--



--WHEN RULED BYUNGGGH!



IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED FROM DECADES OF WATCHING DICTATORS AND BULLIES RISE AND FALL, IT IS THIS--

--THERE IS NO IDEA SO BAD THAT SOMEBODY WON'T TRY IT TWICE.

SO AS LONG AS YOU FASCISTS INSIST ON COMING BACK...

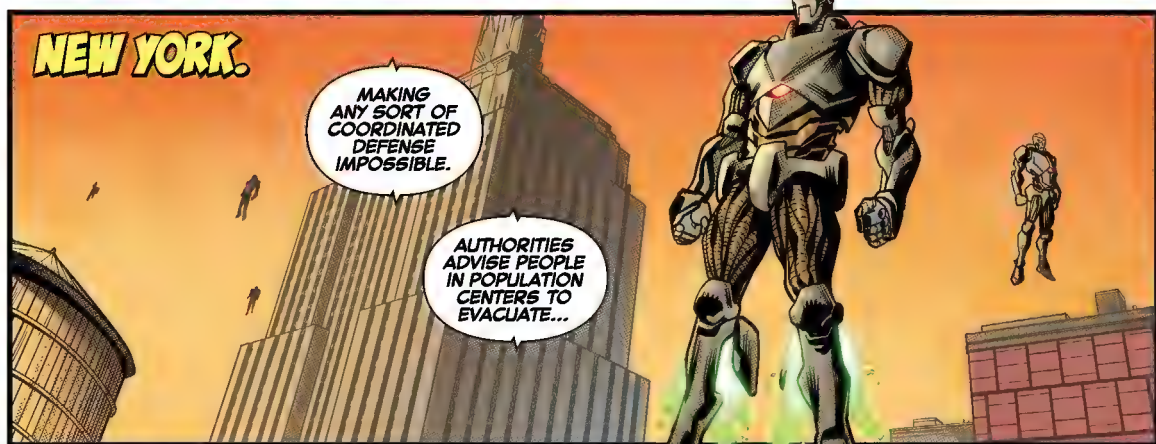
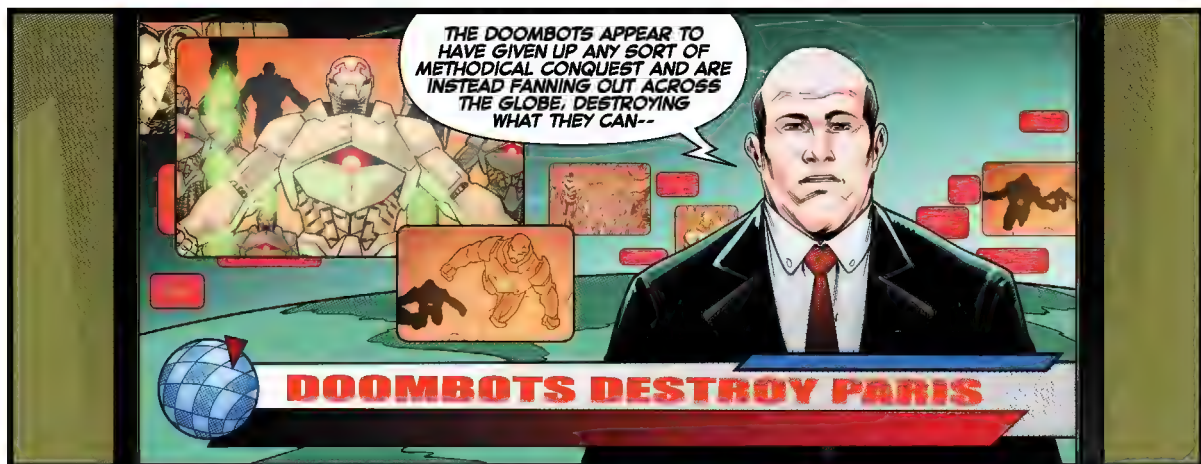
...I SUPPOSE I WILL TOO.

UNNNH-HF!





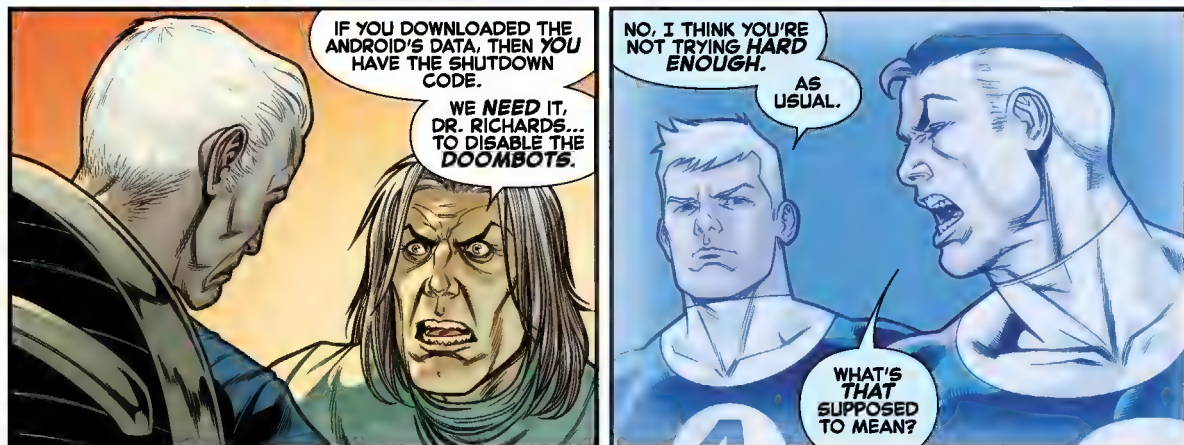
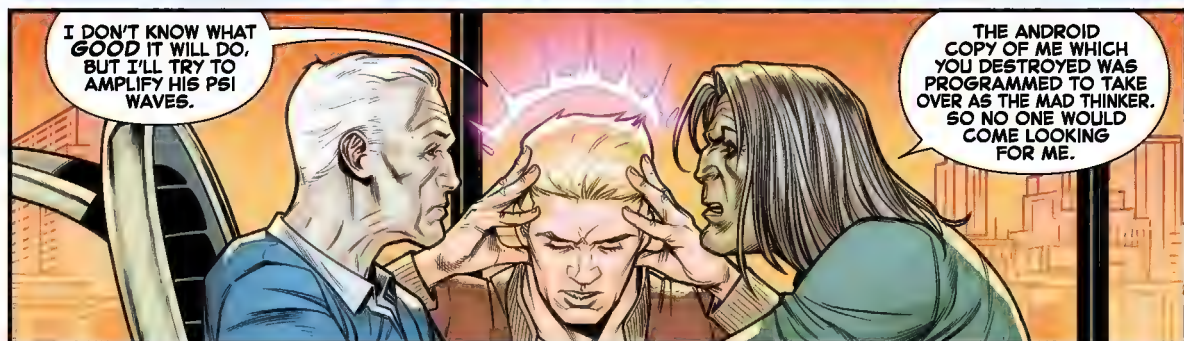
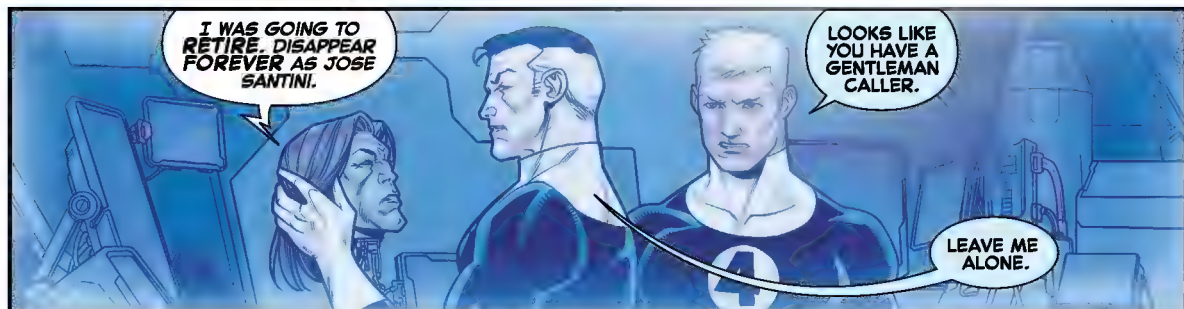
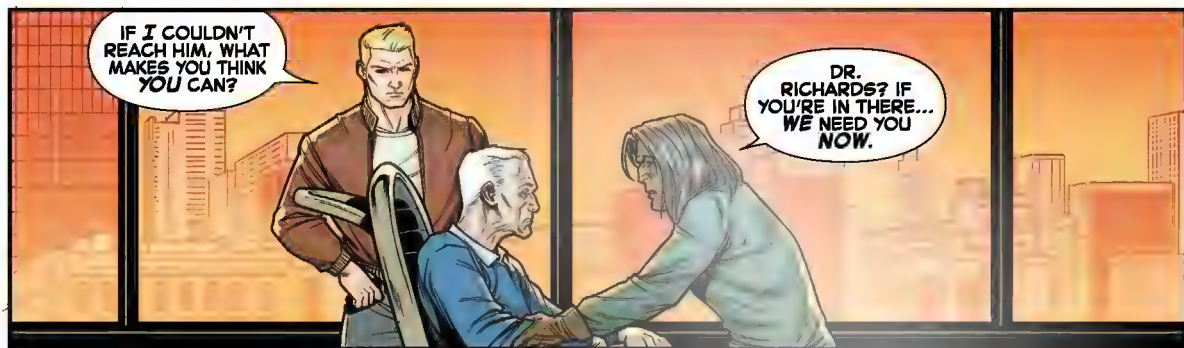












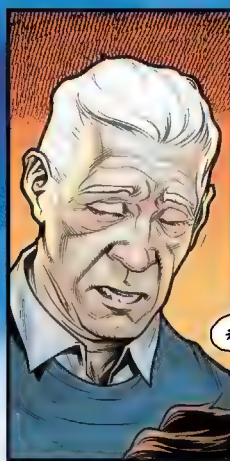








I DON'T KNOW. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S MOVED SINCE HIS BATTLE WITH GALACTUS.







WHAT--  
AM I  
ALIVE?



YOU, MY BOY,  
ARE OUR LAST  
HOPE.

WE PASS THE  
BATON OF OUR  
FAILURES TO THE  
NEXT GENERATION.

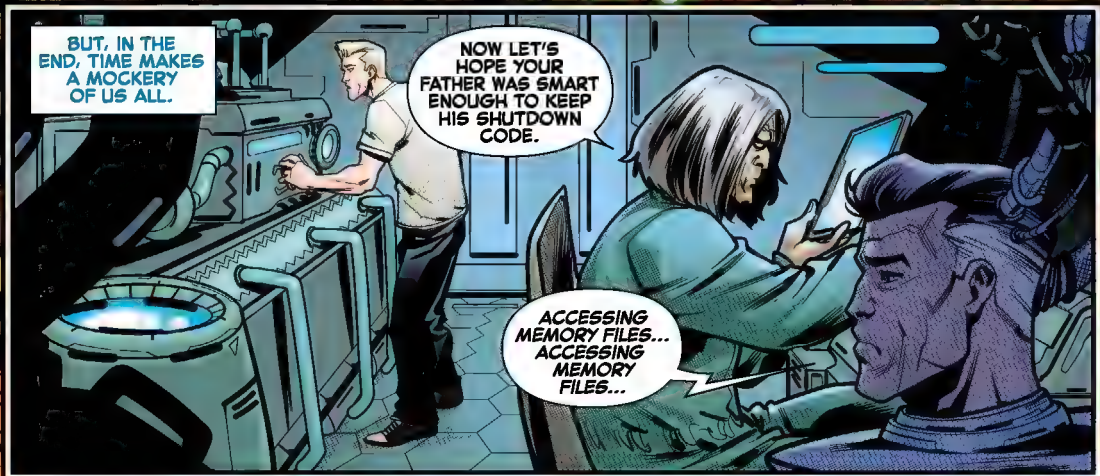
IN THE HOPES  
THAT THEY WILL BE  
THE SALVATION WE  
NEVER WERE.



BOOM

FZASH

"AND WE FOUND  
YOU NOT A MOMENT  
TOO SOON."

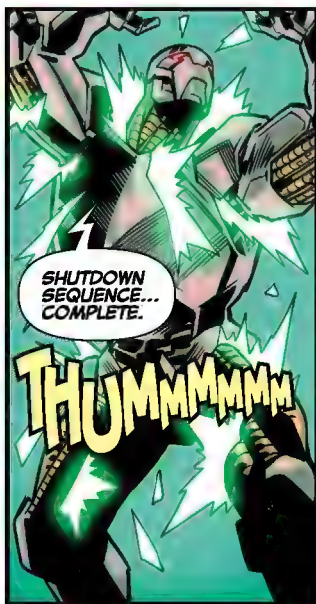


BUT, IN THE  
END, TIME MAKES  
A MOCKERY  
OF US ALL.

NOW LET'S  
HOPE YOUR  
FATHER WAS SMART  
ENOUGH TO KEEP  
HIS SHUTDOWN  
CODE.

ACCESSING  
MEMORY FILES...  
ACCESSING  
MEMORY  
FILES...







2017.

WELP.  
THAT SHOULD  
BE THE LAST  
OF THE BOXES.

**SOLD**

YOU SURE YOU  
DON'T WANT TO  
COME LIVE WITH  
ZAWANDI AND  
ME, MOM?

THE GIRLS  
ARE IN COLLEGE  
NOW, AND--

NO,  
THAT'S OKAY,  
FRANKLIN.

STARK INDUSTRIES  
HAS PROVIDED US  
WITH A "CYBER-  
COTTAGE."

SOUNDS  
COZY. AND  
TERRIFYIN'.

SO WHADDYA WANNA  
DO WITH **SCRAPPY**  
HERE?

UGH. I HAVEN'T  
SEEN THIS THING  
IN YEARS.

ALL THAT WORK.  
IT ALWAYS CAME  
BETWEEN REED AND  
ME. JUST THROW  
IT OUT, I--

SUE STORM...  
AUTHORIZATION  
RECOGNIZED.

SUE?  
IT'S ME.  
IT'S REED.



"BEFORE I WENT INTO THE SUBSPACE CUBE TO BATTLE GALACTUS, I DOWNLOADED AS MANY OF MY THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES AS POSSIBLE INTO THIS HEAD'S DATABASE."

PLEASE.  
DON'T FORGET.

KNOWING THAT I WOULD NOT BE AROUND TO SAY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY TO YOU.

I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TIME I WASTED, MY LOVE. ALL THE TIME THAT WE COULD HAVE HAD TOGETHER, BUT DIDN'T BECAUSE I WAS TOO BUSY LOOKING TO THE STARS. WHEN ALL THAT REALLY MATTERED TO ME WAS DOWN HERE.

WITH YOU.

FRANKLIN?

MY GREATEST JOY IN LIFE WAS WATCHING YOU GROW INTO THE MAN YOU BECAME. MY GREATEST REGRET... THAT I WATCHED IT FROM AFAR.

I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU A MILLION TIMES, BUT I DIDN'T. NOT BECAUSE IT DIDN'T MATTER, BUT BECAUSE IT MATTERED SO MUCH. IT TOOK THE COURAGE I WAS ALWAYS TOO STUPID TO SPARE.

BEN... I TOOK EVERYTHING FROM YOU. BUT, IN EXCHANGE, YOU WERE THE MOST LOYAL FRIEND I EVER HAD. I KNEW I COULD TRUST YOU WITH MY LIFE. AND DID, EVERY DAY.

I KNOW I DON'T DESERVE A FRIEND LIKE YOU, AND YET, I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHOUT YOU.

I WISH I HAD MORE TIME... I WISH...

POWERING DOWN...



2018.

IN REALITY, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A HERO. WE'RE NOT WARRIORS WHO STOOD ALONE AGAINST THE WORLD.

BUT THE SUM OF EVERYONE WHO'S LOVED US.

IN THE END, I'D SAY WE DID ALL RIGHT, MR. FANTASTIC.

TIME, LIKE ALL UNITS OF MEASUREMENT, EXISTS ONLY IN OUR MINDS. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS REAL.

WHERE YA WANT THE BOX?

JUST SET IT ANYWHERE, BEN.

TIME IS SIMPLY HOW WE MAKE SENSE OF THE UNIVERSE.

AND HOW IT MAKES SENSE OF US.

I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US NOW.

IN THE END, TIME DESTROYS US ALL.

AND YET, IT LEAVES US SO MUCH GREATER.

THE END.





MARCOS MARTIN

#1 VARIANT





PAOLO RIVERA

#1 VARIANT



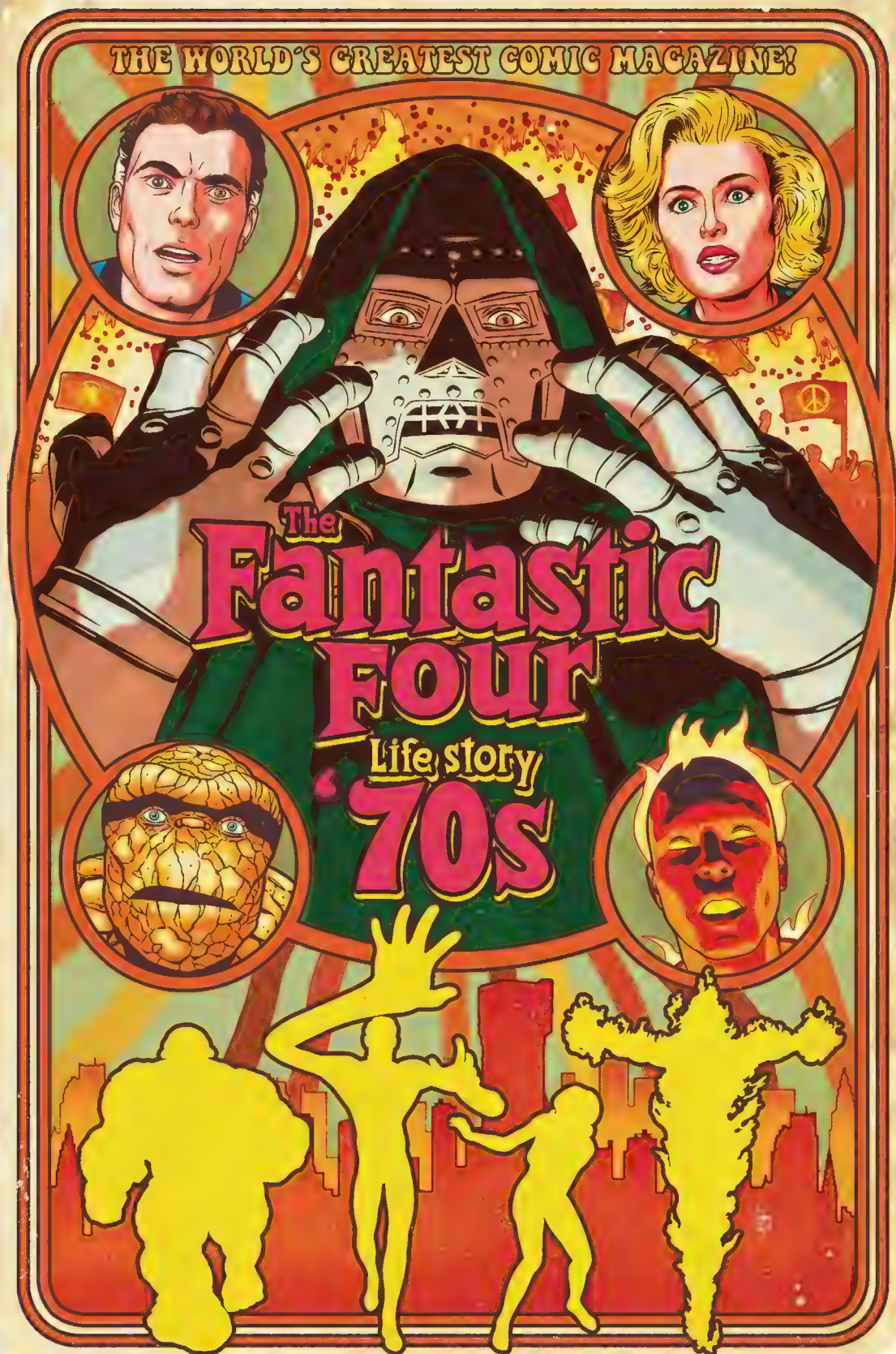


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